

صحنه من الاعمال

Thursday August 22 1996

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,638

Christopher Reeve learns to live again


Super Man



G2 with European Weather

Screen

Arnie rubs out the bad guys (again)



G2 pages 8/9

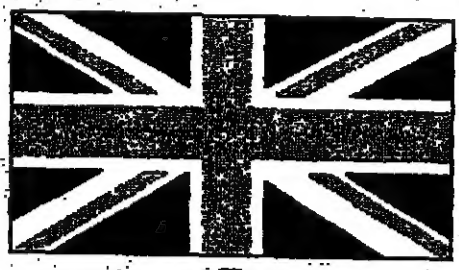



OnLine

Europe's greenest skyscraper

G2 pages 12/13

IDENTITY CARD AND DRIVING LICENCE

Surname: Howard
Forename(s): Michael
D.O.B.: 07/07/41
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An artist's impression of how the new identity card could look

MONTAGE: LIZ GOULDWELL AND STEVE VILLIERS

Gun lobby hires PR to combat poor image

Michael White
Political Editor

BITAIN'S 1 million shooters are being urged to drop camouflage gear on shooting ranges and wear collared shirts and ties for television interviews, by a public relations firm hired to improve their image.

Public Relations Guide for Shooters, produced by John Kendall Associates and seen by the Guardian, advises gun enthusiasts to make their case to what are described as opinion-formers by not using "humanoid" shooting targets, and avoiding military-style camouflage uniforms.

Members of the gun lobby are being urged to join a campaign to persuade voters, MPs and the media that "lawful gun ownership" is essential to the safe, healthy and classless sport of shooting — despite tragedies like the Dunblane massacre.

Casual but respectable clothing on the range or shooting ground, and a collar, tie and suit in the TV studio, may be boring, but it is "safe," advises the 18-page Shooters' Action Pack. "Avoid aggression or hysteria in either the written or the spoken word. Avoid being unnecessarily defensive. Think carefully before attacking the police."

The main thrust of the campaign, organised by the British Shooting Sports Council — the umbrella organisation for 10 separate gun groups — is to ensure that only Lord Cullen's proposals for tighter gun control are acted upon after he publishes his Dunblane inquiry report next month.

The BSSC and its allies fear ministers will be stampeded by outraged public opinion — and vocal Labour support for

a handgun ban — into changes which they, and the majority on the Tory-controlled Home Affairs Select Committee, believe will prove unworkable and unfair.

Having maintained what it calls an initial "dignified silence" after Thomas Hamilton shot dead 16 children and their teacher at Dunblane primary school on March 13, the BSSC campaign is determined "to promote our cause in a much more public manner".

The key to its case is the belief, echoed in the powerful US gun lobby, that "guns are not dangerous, provided they are in the right hands. In the wrong hands any weapon poses a danger". Legislation therefore misses the point. "It is the person who must be rigorously controlled, not the gun."

Ironically, in view of Labour opposition, the BSSC campaign argues shooting is socially, classless, not biased against women or the disabled and is far safer than many sports. In 1994 shotgun causes 38 deaths and 103 injuries but handguns — used in three times as many offences — caused 103 deaths and 1,000 injuries.

Turn to page 2, column 6



Howard's take-your-pick card

Four options as ministers agree to choice over Union Jack after dispute about ID-card symbols

Michael White
Political Editor

THE Home Secretary, Michael Howard, will today announce a compromise solution on the vexed question of Britain's new identity card, under which Northern Ireland's nationalist community will be able to avoid embracing a document bearing the Union Jack.

After weeks of inter-departmental wrangling, John Major is said to have personally approved the deal whereby three options will be available to obtain a credit card-style ID card with or without a driver's licence in mainland Britain — plus a fourth choice for Northern Ireland citizens.

The expected options are:

- a plastic driver's licence bearing both the EU flag and the Union Jack;
- a plastic voluntary ID card, with EU flag and Royal Crest;
- a combined ID card and driver's licence bearing EU and Union flags plus the Royal Crest;

the existing arrangement whereby Ulster citizens retain their two-part paper driver's licence, including a photo identity but without the disputed symbols.

The outcome of the dispute, involving the Home and Foreign Offices as well as the Northern Ireland Office and Department of Transport, is a victory of sorts for Mr Howard, wearing his patriotic hat.

He had pioneered the case for including the Union Jack on the proposed ID card alongside the 12-star symbol of the European Union, which has agreed to standardise its driving licence — with which the voluntary ID card will be merged for most people.

The deal, which had been resisted by Northern Ireland ministers keen not to further

bruise delicate nationalist feelings during the summer marching season, will allow the province's 1.5 million citizens to keep their existing driving licence arrangements at least until 2001.

For 35 million drivers in mainland Britain the option to sign on for a combined ID card and driver's licence, with a likely £15 fee, may be on offer as early as next year.

The DoT, which agreed to a Euro-licence last year, was planning to press ahead regardless of the parallel debate on ID cards.

Since the police, civil liberty groups, and many Tory MPs have insisted that the ID card be voluntary, the deal will be a plastic card which will serve for motoring needs across Europe, and as a substitute passport in many countries.

But the elaborate compromise means that those who opt to retain a separate driver's licence will have one with the EU's 12-star symbol on it, plus the Union Jack. Those opting for an ID card alone will find it sports the EU's stars plus the Royal Crest, judged less provocative to anti-union opinion.

Unsurprisingly, those who are neither Irish nationalists nor avid English Euro-sceptics can opt for a combined card which boasts all three symbols. Whitehall sources indicated last night Mr Howard is expected to flesh out the details later today.

But the idea of a driver's licence acting as a non-compulsory but de facto ID card

Heads fear GCSE table rigging

John Carvel
Education Editor

HHEAD teachers' leaders last night called for an official inquiry into this year's GCSE exams when it emerged that students sat tens of thousands fewer papers than expected, fuelling speculation that schools held back weak candidates to boost their position in the league tables.

The Government hailed the results as the best in the 10 years' history of the exam, with a further 1 per cent rise in the proportion of passes at grade C or above — the equivalent of the old O level. There were better scores in the core subjects of maths and science, although performance in English was marginally down.

But the examination boards were unable to explain why subject entries increased by only 1.1 per cent when the population of 16-year-olds went up by 3.1 per cent.

A senior government adviser said the figures were consistent with 100,000 pupils being held back altogether — about a sixth of the age group and almost three times the proportion who did not enter for the GCSE last year.

Labour spokesmen, however, thought this a fanciful hypothesis, unjustified by the limited facts so far available to the exam boards.

It was just as likely that more candidates sat the GCSE, but entered fewer subjects. About 100,000 dropped technology after it was removed as a compulsory subject in the national curriculum, but the entry for the core subjects of English, maths and science rose in line with the expanding numbers of 16-year-olds.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, called for an government inquiry into the relative drop in entries. "There has to be a strong suspicion that a significant number of pupils have not been entered because their results would have an adverse impact on the overall performance of a school and its league table position," he said.

GCSE pass rate

Pass rate at grades A* to C

English	98.2%
Mathematics	88.5%
Science	87.8%

Sir Rhodes Boyson, a former Conservative education minister, said the drop in entries could be "an unwanted effect of league tables, with schools maximising the number passing exams and minimising those they think will fail". Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat education spokesman, said too many young people's futures were being sacrificed on the altar of Tory league tables and market forces in education.

John Dunford, president of the Secondary Heads Association, said the price of exams could have reduced the number of candidates entered. Exam entries at his Durham Johnston Comprehensive school now cost £50,000 a year.

Leader comment, page 8

Ronnie and Reggie start life fighting

Ruaridh Nicoll
and Mick Varley

BABIES have long been named after everyone from soap stars to footballers, but the Smith twins, of Birmingham, may have broken new ground.

Not for them Phil and Grant, after EastEnders' Mitchell brothers, or Ryan and Eric, after Manchester United's heroes, but Ronnie and Reggie, after you know who.

Parents Daryl and Brenda Smith, from Castle Vale, Birmingham, have named their twins after the East End gangsters. Far from worrying if the names might be a bad start in life for the boys, the couple said the Krays were good people during their reign of terror in the 1960s.

"When Brenda first became pregnant I had a dream that she would have twin boys and that they would be called Ronnie and Reggie," said Mr Smith, a 31-year-old bouncer.

"I know the Krays were supposed to be a bad lot in the 1960s, but they never knocked old ladies about. They only sorted out their own kind, other villains. When the twins were born the naming problem was solved. Nothing to think about, job done."

Mrs Smith, aged 28, gave birth a month ago at Heartlands hospital. She said the boys — born prematurely, weighing 3lb 12oz and 4lb 10oz — have already lived up to their names.

"My Ronnie and Reggie are fighters all right," she said. "They were in intensive care for a while but they are home now."

In keeping with the criminal career of the newborn twins' namesakes, the christening is being delayed a fortnight — until Mr Smith's best friend is released from prison.

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The Government said exceptional factors caused a surprise fall in high street spending and consumer activity remained strong.

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England will play Australia at rugby twice a season for the next seven years on a home and away basis in July and November.

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Sketch

Pontefract rallies to Bertie's cause and its black past

Stephen Lyle

IN THE gardens and allotments of the West Yorkshire town of Pontefract it is springing up as quickly as the trifolium of John Wyndham's classic sci-fi novel, Gylfyrhinn plant, liquorice to you and I, is making a spectacular comeback to the town to which it gave fame if not fortune.

True, Pontefract has had its rich moments in history. Richard II took his last breath there, as did Catherine Howard after being caught having an extra marital roll in the hay by her husband Henry VIII.

The townsfolk have always told visitors Pontefract is one of the last unexplored jewels of English heritage, flagging up its Roman and medieval past.

But to the rest of us, Pontefract is renowned for just one thing, those small, sticky, sweet black discs they call Pomfret cakes. For reasons no one seemed able to explain yesterday, it was the centre for the production of liquorice. Until chocolate displaced it in a nation's affections.

Fears that the raw material for the famous cakes is becoming scarce have put the liquorice plant at the top of the civic agenda. There has been a manic bout of planting, with Starbushes as tall as 8ft are now appearing on any available patch of green.

Mollie Dixon, who has five of the dark-leaved bushes in her garden, was explaining why she is passing cuttings on to friends and family to ensure the plant has a future.

"There used to be fields of liquorice here and although we won't see that any more, I don't think the plant should disappear altogether. I grow it because I have a pride in Pontefract and know lots of people who are doing the same. It's part of our history. And the plants are resilient. Sometimes when I am digging around in that part of the garden I will uncover the roots, wash them and eat

them. I keep a basket in the kitchen where I dry the roots and the children love to chew on them," Ms Dixon said.

It is indigenous to the fertile crescent of Iran, Iraq and Turkey, but liquorice's connection with Pontefract goes back a long way. Townsfolk believe it was probably brought to West Yorkshire in the Middle Ages, by crusaders and monks who used it for medicinal purposes. It was not until about 1600, when some bright spark decided to mix the sweet taste of the plant with flour and paste, that the Pomfret cake, so maligned by Shakespeare, was born.

The cakes had their halcyon days with the Victorians. So great was the demand that plants had to be shipped in from abroad.

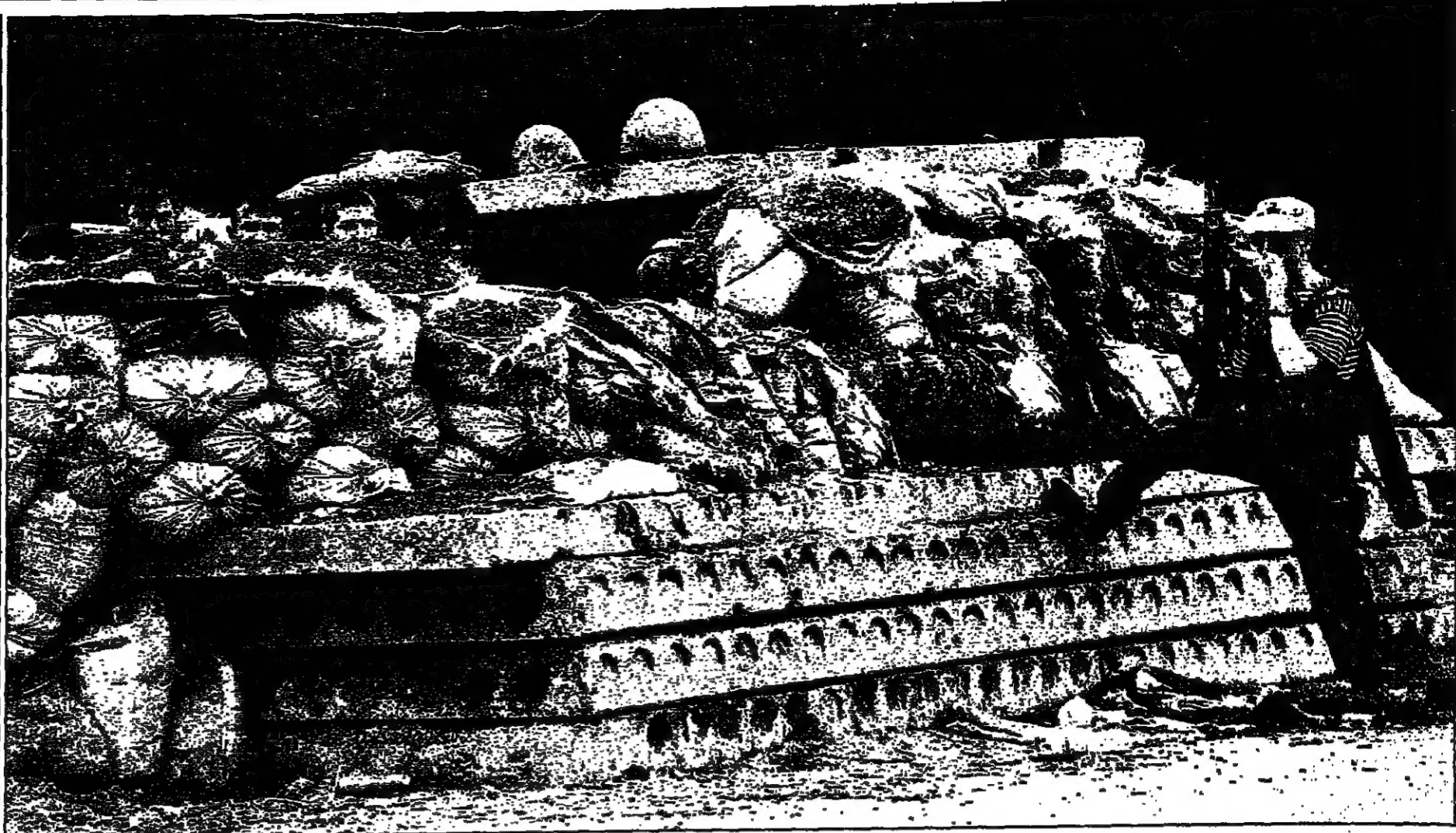
It was the growing popularity of chocolate which spelled the beginning of the end for the liquorice fields of West Yorkshire — the same fields where Benjamin met his love with many a burdened liquorice bush blooming around his feet.

The town's museum curator, Richard van Riel, is leading Pontefract's liquorice revival. From his back room office, Mr Van Riel and colleagues have planned this week's Pontefract Liquorice Fayre, the town's celebration of the plant.

"It's a wonderful plant. Doctors in America think that it can be used to cure cancer. Aids and all sorts of things. And everyone remembers their childhood and what liquorice meant to them," Mr Van Riel said.

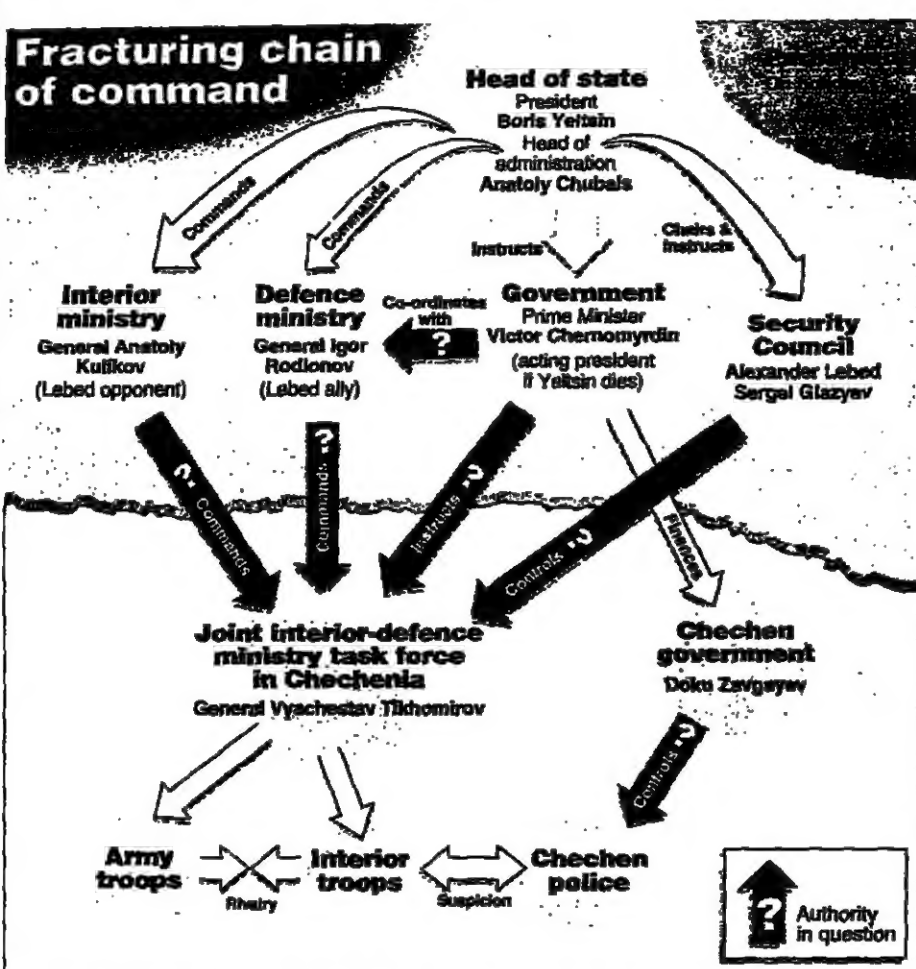
The Liquorice Fayre will include a great liquorice hunt, liquorice walk and liquorice fashion show. Mr Van Riel must have read the expression on my face as he spelled out this week's festivities. "I suppose you think this is the silly season?" he inquired.

"No, not at all," I assured him. But it was tricky to ignore the 5ft tall figure of Bertie Bassett, that embodiment of liquorice, smiling at me from behind him.



Fighters stand guard at a bunker in the Chechen capital Grozny. Russia's General Lebed announced a ceasefire yesterday, but Russian bombing continued.

Power vacuum puts Russia on the rack



Lebed pledges 'no bloodbath' in Chechnia but Yeltsin's illness brings rivalry and disarray

James Mack in Moscow

RUSSIA'S self-styled peacemaker, Alexander Lebed, said last night he would not allow a fresh bloodbath in the Chechen capital, Grozny — as evidence grew that local Russian commanders have been more than ready to take control of Moscow than the Chechen rebels.

On the fifth anniversary of his victory over the putschists which brought about the collapse of the USSR, President Boris Yeltsin was nowhere to be seen — leaving the conflicting organs of power in disarray. Rivalries between powerful figures are intensifying.

Gen Lebed criticised Russia's Byzantine decision-making process, though claiming he and his colleagues had settled the question of who was in charge. Before Gen Lebed's arrival, Gen Pulikovskiy's replacement, General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, said he had no plans to cancel the ultimatum. The air raids on Grozny yesterday seemed to be a prelude to a full-scale attack.

First night

Fascination with failure makes a belated success

Michael Billington

IT COULD BE ANY ONE OF US. Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough

FIRST IT WAS BY JEEVES: now it is It Could Be Any One Of Us. Alan Ayckbourn, in his spanking new Scarborough theatre, seems to be specialising in rescuing his past failures: in this case a spoof whodunit which was first seen in 1983 and soon discarded. But it is here that he simply shows the melancholy of having artistic dreams with no executive skill.

It takes time to crank up the plot, but once it gets going, the spoof meshes neatly with the sympathy. And Ayckbourn's production is full of deft internal jokes: the baronial clutter of Roger Glossop's set, the reflected millioned windows of Mick Hughes's lighting, even the way the investigative Strickland clumsily sits astride a chair. Juliet Mills, as a wispy writer of unpub-lished thrillers, Malcolm Semele as a composer of unperformed music and Janet Dibley as the commonsensical prospective legatee give wonderfully well observed performances.

The paradox of Ayckbourn is that he is probably our most widely performed dramatist; yet he has never lost his fascination with life's unending losers. And in this quietly enjoyable play he sends up the Christie type of thriller while displaying, as the title implies, an admirable sympathy for the great army of people whose artistic reach wildly exceeds its grasp.

even done a treacherous to quit the suspects and spin out his heel to finger each of them in turn in the time-honoured tradition of the stock thriller. But Ayckbourn has an almost Chekhovian fascination with failure, and here he invites our sympathy not just for the slow-witted sleuth but for the whole family who compose, write and paint without a shred of talent. Driven on by a mother who was herself a frustrated artist, they all lead lives of quiet desperation. But Ayckbourn, to his credit, never patronises these people: he simply shows the melancholy of having artistic dreams with no executive skill.

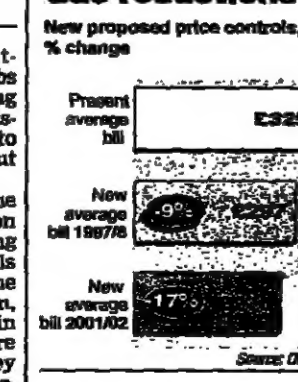
British Gas says bill cut threatens 10,000 jobs

Chris Barrie Business Correspondent

BRITISH GAS threatened to axe 10,000 jobs last night after failing to persuade Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator, to soften radically plans to cut bills by 22p a year.

As trade unions and the company rounded angrily on the regulator for insisting that tough new price controls be imposed on TransCo, the profitable pipelines division, Ms Spottiswoode warned in turn that her proposals were "final" and insisted that they represented a fair balance between the interests of shareholders and those of customers.

Gas reductions



Under the proposals, effective next year for five years, TransCo would have to cut its charges by a fifth in the first year and by 2.5 per cent in real terms thereafter. Its charges account for 43 per cent of the average domestic gas bill.

Gregor, national secretary of the GMB union, dismissed the price curbs as a "short-term cashback solution" which left workers facing uncertainty. Calling for MMC intervention, he said Ms Spottiswoode's plans were "unworkable" and short-termism gone mad.

Shooters hire PR firm to sharpen up their image

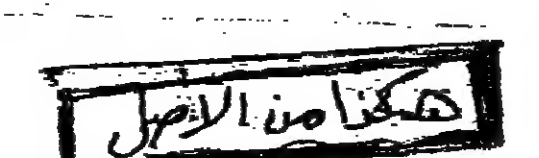
continued from page 1 — "caused death in only 28 cases and injury in 126". Supporters in gun clubs throughout the country are urged to build relations with the local media — getting them "to run pro-shooting stories" and inviting them to rifle ranges — write letters and lobby MPs.

Furtive VAT moves prepare tax 'cuts'

THE Treasury has discreetly embarked on a series of tax rises, including the imposition of VAT on allergy-relief equipment and incontinence pads, as a means of closing the "black hole" in the public finances.

Charitable nursing homes are also being acted upon, according to papers obtained by the Liberal Democrats. The loophole-closing forms part of a wider Treasury series of backdoor tax increases designed to pave the way for Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to cut the headline rate of income tax by 2p in his November 26 budget.

Advertisement for BBC Proms in the Park at Hyde Park on Saturday 14th September. It lists the Piccadilly Dance Orchestra, Cantabile Maesteg & District Male Voice Choir, BBC Concert Orchestra, James Galway, Maria Ewing, and Labèque Sisters. Tickets are £7.50 plus booking fee. Live link to the Royal Albert Hall for part two of the Last Night of the Proms.



صكنا من الامل

Two police forces reject use of incapacitants □ Critics and victim's relatives call for more tests Howard approves 'safe' CS sprays

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

TWO police forces have announced that they will not issue their officers with CS sprays, despite the Home Secretary's go-ahead for the incapacitants yesterday. Chief constables were told that, after nearly six months of trials, the CS sprays had been approved for use nationally.

uses to be an excellent addition to the means which police officers have of defending themselves. It does not require strength to use and is therefore especially valuable to female officers who are sadly sometimes targeted for attack by criminals.

A single stream that brings blisters and burns

THE substance in CS spray is a white crystalline solid known as CS, after Carson and Stoughton who first synthesised it in 1928. The solid is dissolved in a solvent and comes out of the canister in a single stream. It is not a gas, although often wrongly described as such. It is dis-

pensed from a hand-held aerosol and has a range of 8 to 14 feet. The spray causes streaming eyes and nose, eyelid spasm, salivation and a burning sensation in the throat and nose. There may also be some reddening and blistering of the skin, similar to severe sunburn. Any-

one sprayed has to be seen by a police doctor, and this practice will continue for at least the next 12 months. CS spray was preferred to a "pepper spray" which some senior officers favoured, but which the Home Office believed was too risky. Officers using it have to undergo training.

Home Office-issue CS spray. They were now working with a British manufacturer to develop a safer and more operationally useful spray, a spokeswoman said. Reservations were also expressed by Liberty, its campaigns co-ordinator, Liz Parrott, said: "CS spray takes us one step further away from policing by consent rather than coercion. In the long term, this trend will continue to undermine the public cooperation, trust and confidence on which the police rely in order to do their job."



Sgt Debbie Conlon of West Midlands police demonstrates a CS gas spray at Oldham police station. PHOTOGRAPH: TRUDY BLACK

"This is a major civil rights issue. It is disgraceful that this announcement has taken place before the results of the trial have been made public. It makes a mockery of the principle of public consultation on important issues of public safety."

Piara Power, Newham Monitoring Project
"I am satisfied this is a safe substance. There is no evidence that CS spray was responsible for that very regrettable death."
Michael Howard, Home Secretary, yesterday



Anie Sey, with daughters Maimuna, aged 6, and six-month-old Ramutuly. Her husband, Ibrahim, died after being sprayed. PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF MOORE

A potent weapon to calm violent confrontations

CS SPRAYS have been used on 582 occasions during the trial period, and drawn, but not used, on 350 occasions, writes Duncan Campbell. Among them were:
□ In Cleveland, six officers attended a fight involving 40 people at a social club in which glasses and chairs were being used as weapons. The officers restrained the fighters and made arrests without injury to themselves. The chairman and secretary of the club thanked the police for their action.
□ Police in London were called to a home where a teenage girl was assaulting staff and smashing property. When police arrived she armed herself with broken glass, threatened the officers and said she would injure herself. She was sprayed and restrained.

Too soon, says dead man's family

Questions remain over a death after use of the spray, while trial results are unknown. Duncan Campbell on the critics' fears

THE family of a man who died shortly after police used a CS spray to restrain him yesterday attacked the go-ahead for the spray to be made available to all police officers. Ibrahim Sey, aged 29, a Ghanaian-born asylum-seeker, died on March 16 this year in Ilford, Essex, after police were called to his home following a domestic disturbance. Several officers attended and he was sprayed with the incapacitant. He was handcuffed and taken to the police station and later

place before the results of the trial have been made public. It makes a mockery of the principle of public consultation on important issues of public safety." He said the spray should be banned immediately. Asked about Mr Sey's death yesterday, Michael Howard said: "I am satisfied that this is a safe substance. There is no evidence that the CS spray was responsible for that very regrettable death." A spokeswoman for the Police Complaints Authority, which investigated the death of Mr Sey, said all its interviews had been completed but another medical report was awaited. A date for the inquest has not been set and it may not take place until next year.

Breaking up is easy with Divorce

Jonathan Freedland in Washington
STEP aside Brides magazine and Weddings Monthly, America's news-stands now have a more pragmatic addition: Divorce magazine, the world's first journal dedicated solely to the business of breaking up. Targeting the million American couples who split up each year, Divorce offers advice on finding a good lawyer, a sympathetic therapist and an estate agent with experience in selling the house and splitting the proceeds. There's even a problem page, with tips for philanderers on whether to tell their soon-to-be-ex they're having an affair. For the publisher Dan Couvrette, Divorce — launched this month with a



romance," Mr Couvrette said. It's just that during his own divorce — "probably the most challenging period of my life" — he struggled to find information beyond a few weighty tomes. "Magazines are very accessible, they're not as daunting as a 300-page book." There is no shortage of advisers. Besides lawyers and accountants, Divorce runs ads from masseurs, beauty salons and Glenn's Custom Photo — offering to airbrush out a former lover. The Canadian-based Mr Couvrette understands his readership. "Haven't been on a date in 15 years? We'll show you some great new ways to find Mr or Ms Right in the '90s," promises one story. A more sober note is struck in the legal advice pages. They remind readers that if they live in Illinois and their spouse tries to kill them — it may be grounds for divorce. Divorce also advises: "Don't choose a lawyer based on physical attractiveness." Divorce appears in Chicago as Bill Clinton and the Democratic Party gather in the city next week to cast themselves as the guardians of family values. The magazine insists it is not at odds with America's conservative trend. Instead, Divorce is part of a growing school of sociologists and counsellors who champion the so-called good divorce — believing that, handled properly, a break-up can enhance a couple's relationship with each other and with their children. Mr Couvrette himself is now anxiously looking for a partner — to form a joint venture and publish a British edition of Divorce.

"The alarm is sounding on my vent, and I'm making this clicking noise with my throat — clk, clk, clk — and the security guy comes in and asks, 'Are you all right, Mr Reeve?' ... All he needed to do was put the hose back in place, but I guess his instructions were that his job was security."

G2 cover story

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As the row over admen's peerages grows, Martin Linton explodes the myth that life in the Lords is all ermine and ear trumpets

'Working peers' confound popular whiff of oxymoron

PEOPLE find it difficult to believe in the existence of "working peers". There is a faint whiff of the oxymoron about them — like "intelligence officers" or "conviction politicians" — or "working peers". There is a faint whiff of the oxymoron about them — like "intelligence officers" or "conviction politicians" — or "working peers". There is a faint whiff of the oxymoron about them — like "intelligence officers" or "conviction politicians" — or "working peers".

Tory guru defends ennobled 'demon poster' masterminds

ADVERTISING guru Sir Tim Bell yesterday leapt to the defence of the new Tory peers criticised for masterminding the "demon" poster of Tony Blair.

As Labour branded Maurice Saatchi, 50, chairman of the M&C Saatchi agency, and Peter Gummer, 54, younger brother of Environment Secretary John Gummer and chairman of Sandwick public relations, "Lords of the Lies" for their role in devising the New Labour, New Danger campaign, the third man behind it insisted it had John Major's backing — although he claimed the party chairman "on his own" had approved the "demon" advertisement.

Sir Tim, who helped Baroness Williams, 54, former head of the advertising agency, defend the poster of Mr Blair with red eyes was based on comments by shadow cabinet member Clare Short about the "dark forces" surrounding the Labour leader.

He added: "There's been a lot of advertisements that have made points like this. Go back to the SDP's ad about Foot having no brain and Thatcher having no heart and yesterday's men and so on. It is all a bit hypocritical for the politicians to run around saying 'how dare you'."

this year: the "pension-splitting" amendment to the Family Law Bill and the "three days grace" amendment to the Asylum & Immigration Bill.

She was headhunted for the Lords. "The key question was how much time I was willing to give. I said I was willing to be full time, so the answer was yes." She gave up her job as reader in modern history at the University of East Anglia so she could attend the Lords four days a week.

She reckons to make up to 30 speeches a week in the Lords, along with meetings with her Commons front bench counterparts and briefings from countless pressure groups.

Along with other working peers on Labour's front bench — such as former Greater London Council leader Andrew Mackintosh and former merchant banker Charles Williams — she has found that good arguments and reasonableness can sometimes defeat the Government in the Lords in a way that would never work in the Commons.

"I agree the Commons is what matters. It is where the adrenalin is. But because the Lords isn't such a laddish place, you can actually persuade people if your argument is good."

"Argument and reason and even compassion can be heard in a way that often cuts across party lines. You can persuade cross-benchers to vote with you and you can sometimes persuade Tories to abstain."

"People aren't trying to prove themselves — they're not hungry young people ambitious for office, and therefore there isn't the competitive edge. They'll listen to your arguments."

Like other working peers, she doesn't like to use her title. "I'm an academic doctor, but I don't use the title doctor outside a university. In the same way 'baroness' is a job description. I only use it in Westminster. I would much prefer it was something like 'alderwoman'."

In any case the pay isn't exactly lordly. At £33 a day it may sound generous, but it is only paid 140 days a year and works out at £4,620 a year for full-time attenders. The housing allowance is larger, but doesn't pay for a round-the-year London flat.

"I'm not pleading poverty. I cope perfectly well. But I don't break even. I basically dip into my savings," she says.

"If you live in London you can no doubt keep a job going in the morning. But if you live outside London, you have got to give up your job. I sometimes don't know till 11am that I have got to reply to a statement at 3pm."



Lady Hollis, Labour's star, was headhunted for the Lords and spends four days a week there. A typical day is described below

House work

Wednesday July 17
9am: Leaves home in Fulham. Walks to Lords
10: Meets Chris Smith and Labour social security team in Commons
11:30: Weekly meeting of Parliamentary Labour Party

1.15pm: Attends drinks meeting for Labour front bench team in Lords.
Misses meeting of Labour women MPs and peers also at 1.15
2.30: Asks question on housing benefit fraud at Lords question time
3.14: On front bench for third reading of Housing Bill

4.00, 5.31 and 5.56: Votes on Opposition amendments. Between votes is briefed on Social Security Bill; meets Shelter to plan Housing Bill amendments
7.16-9.45: Speaks 22 times and moves four amendments during debate
11.13: House adjourns

Health properties of garlic disputed by doctors

Jane Alfred

THE health properties of garlic — not to mention its fabled powers as a vampire repellent — have made it a modern panacea, but it may not be all that it is cracked up to be on the medical front, doctors say today.

The belief that it can help prevent heart disease by lowering cholesterol and reducing blood pressure may be a myth.

Hugh Neil and colleagues, from Oxford University and the Radcliffe Infirmary, found that the cholesterol levels of their patients were not affected by garlic. They believe its health benefits have been overestimated, and question

whether it is any more than a tasty addition to food.

However, Lichtwer Pharma, the company which produces the garlic tablet used by the doctors in their study, disputed the findings: "We have a weight of data which far surpasses the findings of this particular study."

The Oxford team looked at 115 patients with raised cholesterol levels, who were given either garlic or placebo tablets for six months.

Reporting the findings in the Journal of the Royal College of Physicians, the researchers say: "At the end of the six month trial there were no significant differences between the groups."

"An effective, safe, inexpensive and naturally occurring

compound would be an attractive alternative to fat-lowering drug therapy for use when dietary measures have proved inadequate," they point out. "Our results suggest that the use of garlic for this purpose is likely to lead to smaller reductions in blood cholesterol than previously suggested."

Sonia Job, marketing manager for Lichtwer Pharma, said: "Our approved claim for Kwai (the trade name for their brand of garlic tablet) is that it helps maintain normal cholesterol."

She said research had shown garlic to be particularly beneficial for sufferers of high cholesterol or blood pressure, which she felt the study had not taken into account.

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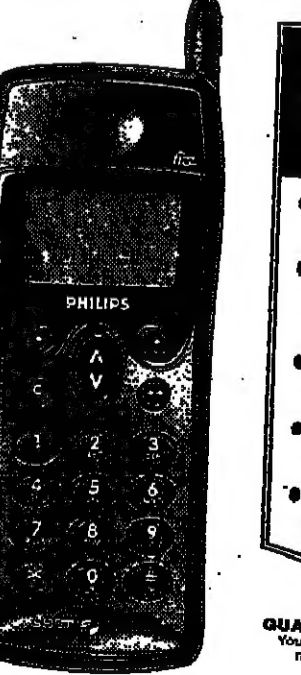


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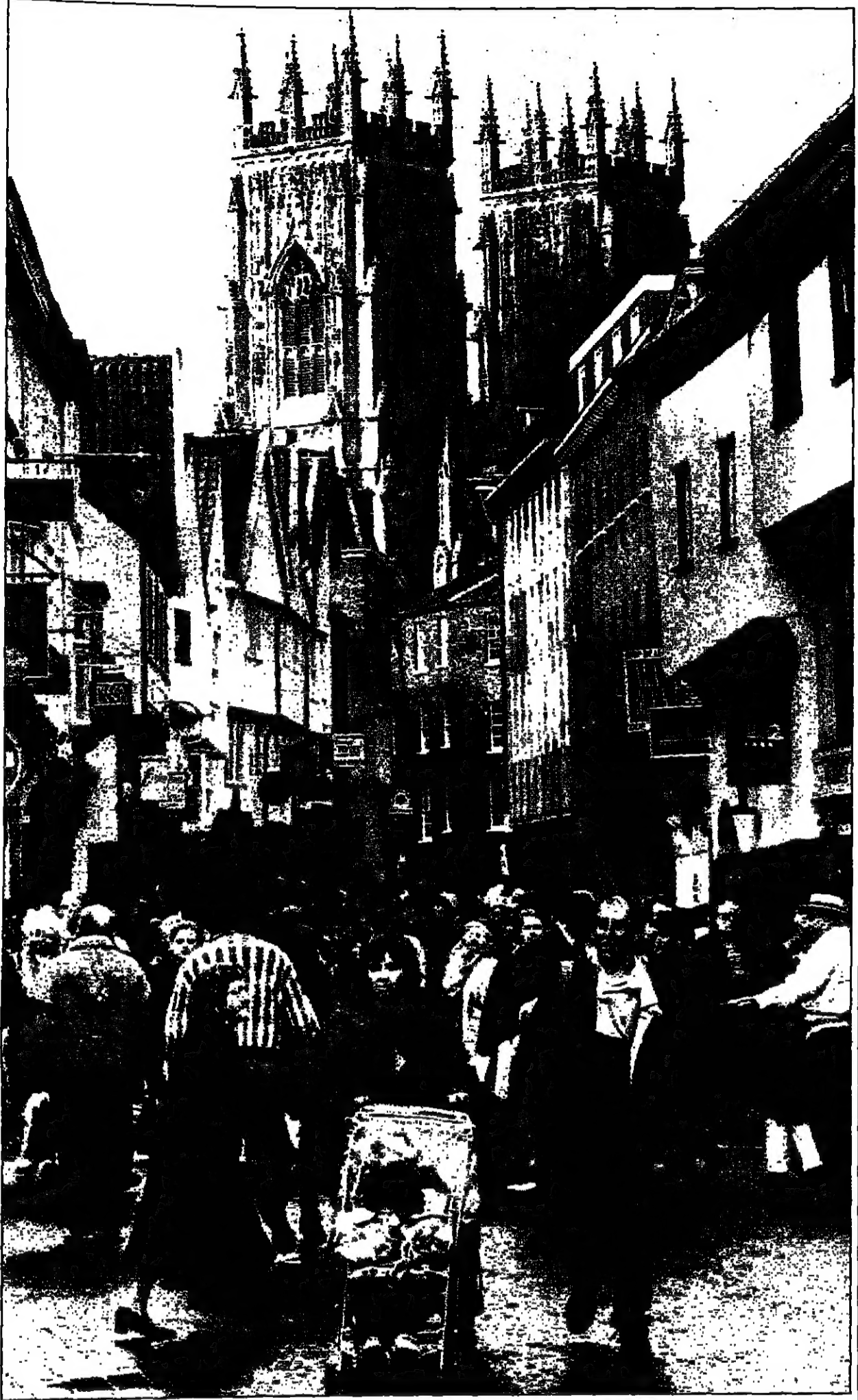
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Environment Secretary sets stringent rules for clean air but fails to offer resources to achieve them and puts off target dates to 2005

Gummer passes buck on pollution

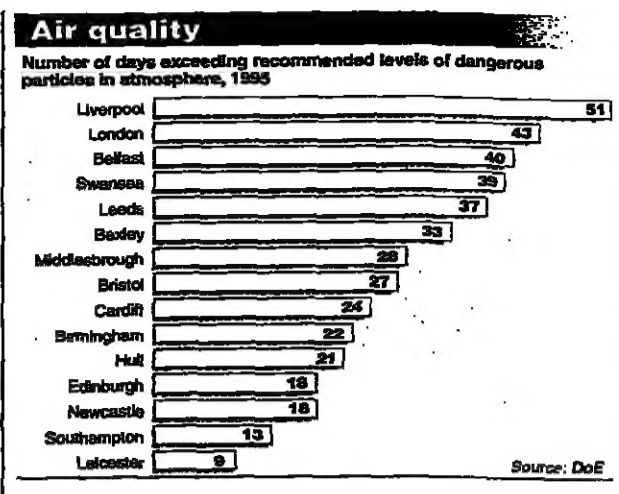


Pedestrian and traffic management at work in York, where car-free streets improve the quality of life. PHOTOGRAPH: DON MCPHEE

Paul Brown
Environment Correspondent

JOHNS Gummer yesterday set stringent maximum levels for air pollution to safeguard health, but failed to provide any resources to achieve them. Local authorities, charged by the Government to come up with plans to cut pollution, said it was not clear the proposals were viable. Environmental groups said decisive action was needed to make it work. Achieving the targets was put off until 2005 to allow European directives to come into force and fuel refining to be adapted. Meanwhile local authorities can tackle what Mr Gummer called "local hot spots" with their own plans which may include a permit or pricing system to allow only essential vehicles into a town.

The National Air Quality Strategy acknowledged that traffic was the main cause of the problem, and there must be changes in planning and transport policies which would reduce reliance on the car. It did not specify what these would be, and Mr Gummer would only say that privatising the railways would help to get more passengers and freight off roads.



Toby Harris, chairman of the Association for London Government, said: "Mr Gummer is passing the buck to local government. We are being asked to make schemes to clean up vehicles self-financing by fining people. They want teams to monitor traffic, but the police have to stop the vehicles, and they want paying up front for their time. It is not clear that any of this can work. "If the Government was serious they would make some pump priming available to get the system up and running."

Mr Harris said closing roads or areas to traffic was not a solution because it merely moved the problem elsewhere. What was needed was proper investment in public transport, but the Government was not prepared to help pay for that. Garaint Davies, leader of Croydon council, south London, said fixed penalty notices to people in polluting vehicles and powers to stop people running their engines when parked were welcome ideas, but "this is not a long awaited strategic plan". What was needed was a properly in-

tegrated public transport system. Michael Mencher, Labour's environment spokesman, said: "After 17 years of neglect of public transport the Tories have suddenly noticed that excessive car use causes pollution. Even the modest air quality targets that have been set out cannot be met without a major shift in policy towards clean, green public transport." For some of the pollutants, such as carbon monoxide and lead, current government policies will achieve the reduction in levels — with the already planned use of catalytic converters and lead free petrol. For others such as nitrogen dioxide, particles, ozone and sulphur dioxide, current policies are, in the Government's words, "unlikely to be enough to meet the targets". The National Society for Clean Air demanded action to tax pollution. November's budget should be used to link vehicle excise duty to the size of the emissions, so the owners of less polluting vehicles paid less. The society also wants less fuel tax on clean alternative fuels like gas and city diesel, tax breaks for bus operators to clean up existing fleets, and removal of tax perks for company car users coupled with tax breaks for commuters using public transport.

Traffic nearing gridlock in pedestrian city

David Ward parks and rides to York

JUST past the Tadcaster brewery on the A64 there is near gridlock, with enough messy emissions to make John Gummer fume. And this is York, one of Britain's most environmentally sound cities, with the largest pedestrianised area. It is race day in York, and a five mile crawl leads to the Askham Bar park and ride terminus, whence a

normal peak but it showed that even with traffic management schemes the city was close to capacity. It shows how we need to restrict cars."

Round the corner at the top of the Shambles, Ivor English is making money while the sun shines, his voice competing only with the clip clop of a passing horse and carriage. Mr English sits atop a 10ft unicycle and juggles two firesticks and a machete. "You couldn't do this sort of show on a busy road, York is an excellent city centre," Mr English says. The Shambles itself is heaving with visitors lost in the crush. Colonel Dwight Adams and his wife Helen, from Florida, where the air quality is still quite good, reflect on this and make for a wider street. "It's important to have car-free zones," he says. "You may get stepped on by fellow tourists here, but they won't kill you."

Councils pioneer 'clean' travel

Gas and electrically powered vehicles are in the vanguard of attempts to find different modes of transport, James Meikle reports

EXPERIMENTS to prove the future of transport really is electric or gas-powered are under way in local authorities out to set an environmentally friendly example. Ipswich council in Suffolk has two electric-powered trolleybuses, the mayor's car uses traditional fuel for out of town journeys and natural gas for short trips. One bus and a litter-cleaning vehicle are gas fuelled. The 8ft-long cars, made in

Denmark have been used by officials for three years. "They have been cost-effective. To get 25 miles costs about 25 pence in electricity," said David Botwright, the council's environmental support manager. The gas-powered bus could take fewer passengers because of the weight and space taken up by the fuel. "Although gas is cheaper to buy, the fuel consumption is not so good. We are breaking even probably, but it is more of an

environmental thing for us," Coventry city council will be partners with Powergen, the Royal Mail and East Midlands Electricity during trials of the new electric Peugeot 106 car, already on sale in France. It would be the first traditional looking motor car powered electrically to be used in this country although some specialist companies already convert vehicles. New Peugeot vans will also be tried and with a 56 mph top speed and 50-mile range, the old image of electric vehicles as 15 mph milk floats will be dispelled, say their supporters. Derek Charters, of the Motor Industry Research Association, said: "People talk about electric vehicles and improving the environment but when it comes to paying for them, no one wants to pay more than they do at present." In north London, Camden Community Transport, a voluntary body which helps get elderly and disabled people out of their homes, is experimenting with three electric and three natural gas minibuses. Director Ed Passant said: "The electric vehicles are very quiet, very easy to drive

and people who travel in them like them." Motor shows this year will see a number of big companies show off hybrid cars — that can switch between traditional and electric power — but these are still expensive and heavy. Liquefied petroleum gas, a fuel regularly used abroad for 30 years, may make a comeback in Britain as environmental concerns mount. In the 1980s, 25,000 vehicles used Liquefied Petroleum Gas here. Now it could be as low as 1,500. False dawns have come before for alternative fuels; diesel took over as the favoured option to petrol until the danger of particulates was acknowledged. Critics of the Government say real change will come when the Treasury is ready to lose more of the tax it makes on traditional fuel and allow incentives for alternatives. When councils shut off town or city centres for good to petrol driven transport, then taxi operators, security firms and commercial operators would have to switch fuels. Only then would the infrastructure permitting electric cars to be refuelled by plugging into the parking meter be a financially practical possibility.

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Murderers as young as 10 make up a growing - and often deadlier - wave of 'super-predators'

Natural born teen killers plague US

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

THE 14-year-old boy had told friends he was looking for someone to shoot. He left with his gun, saying he would return soon. Ten minutes later he came back to boast: "I did it!" The victim was his mother, dead with a single bullet through her forehead.

increase in 18- to 17-year-olds, the offspring of the post-war baby boom generation. The trend is strongest among Hispanic and black teenagers in the south and west, where the murder rate is increasing fastest. This summer certainly looked like a killing season for the children academics call "super-predators".

Earlier this month in Texas, another girl of 12 was sentenced to 20 years in state custody for beating to death a two-year-old girl by striking her more than a dozen times. The child died from a blow that ruptured her liver. In Colorado a boy of 10 murdered a baby girl of 18 months by beating her with a chain.

In Los Angeles in June a boy of 14 was confined until the age of 25 for shooting his mother dead in a dispute over a chocolate biscuit. Another boy of 14 was sentenced to 25

years-to-life in San Diego, California, in June for shooting dead a pizza delivery man who refused to hand over the order without payment. More typical of big cities are gang shootings, and the children involved are becoming younger. Professor Jack

Levin, a criminologist at Northeastern University in Boston, says: "We are seeing younger and younger children committing more and more violence and murders - hideous crimes - and it's a trend not just in America but in any Western society that has similar problems." Youngsters in early teenage can be deadlier. They may kill for trivial reasons and have less understanding of what death means. They also kill for power, thrills or revenge, he says, in a society where family ties have been broken, and film and television violence make murder seem commonplace.

"They don't consider the consequences of their actions. To them a jacket or a pair of sneakers is as important as cash to an adult bank robber. Kids are less socialised and less supervised - most juvenile crime happens between 4pm and 7pm. They resent people they think cause them misery, and will kill for that." Many ghetto children have lived with killings in the streets since they were toddlers. "There has been pervasive disinvestment in youth in America for 30 years," Prof Levin says. "We are about to see the results."

State finance analysts say the Republican welfare reform bill will cost California (a state governed by the Republicans) \$6.8 billion (\$4.4 billion) in lost federal funds over six years. With 40 per cent of the country's legal immigrants, California will bear the brunt of losses under the bill. President Clinton is to sign today.

A boy aged 14 shot his mother dead in a dispute over a chocolate biscuit; another shot dead a pizza delivery man

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Corn health scare in US threatens world food prices

Martha Walker in Washington

THE discovery of high levels of a carcinogen in corn grown in Texas - where the United States harvest begins - has provoked fears of a new spurt of food price inflation.

feeting US wheat crops. Korean officials yesterday said they feared that aflatoxin could be far more serious. Lester Brown, director of the Worldwatch Institute which monitors world resource and price movements, said yesterday that corn's role in the world livestock economy was so central that a serious contamination problem could have extraordinarily disruptive effects.



Felipe Trejo kneels bound in Santiago Toluca, Mexico. Earlier, he and two other would-be robbers had shot three people. Villagers then beat Trejo and threatened to kill him if any of the casualties died

A health scare about the US corn crop could have serious implications for world food prices, as well as for American corn producers. Aflatoxin, a potent carcinogen, is found in a mould produced on corn by an airborne fungus. This year's droughts across the southern US provided ideal conditions for the fungus's spread.

The industry assumed that the rising prices would slow the steady increase in Asian demand for American corn, but even when prices doubled, their imports kept growing to meet the soaring demand of Asian populations for protein.

"It is a high level of contamination and it is serious. The levels are of considerable concern throughout Texas," a state food scientist, George Lattner, said yesterday. The US produces 250 million tons a year - half the world's corn crop. It accounts for almost 80 per cent of world corn exports, much of it foodstuff for livestock.

The South Korean food and drug administration said that it had found aflatoxin traces of 300 parts per billion. In the US, 20ppb is the limit for human consumption, and 30ppb for livestock. In South Korea, the limit for livestock is 50ppb.

South Korea imported 2 million tons last year, but yesterday it announced food quarantine rules would be tightened. The concern now is that other Asian countries may follow South Korea.

The situation may not be catastrophic, since the main American cornbelt - in Iowa and Indiana - has been spared the drought, and other fodder can be substituted for corn.

"It will cause serious problems to Korea buyers since we import most of our corn requirement from the United States," said Yoo Yang-dong, a trader at Cheiljedang Corp in Seoul. Growing demand in China and Asia has already helped to double corn prices this year, and tripled them over the past two years.

But the aflatoxin threat will add to the pressure on already soaring food prices, at a time when all the major economies hoped that inflation had finally been tamed.

Whitewater still a trial to Clinton

Martha Walker in Washington

BEHIND the frenzied preparations for next week's Democratic Party convention, the whole American political establishment is hanging on the word of James McDougal.

four years probation. But the sentencing of Mr McDougal, originally scheduled for this Monday, has been postponed until November 12, two weeks after the presidential election. He is now talking to prosecutors about co-operating in return for a lighter sentence on the 18 felony charges on which he was convicted on May 28.

Mr McDougal and his then wife, Susan, were business partners of Bill and Hillary Clinton in the failed Whitewater property venture which lies at the heart of a special investigation into the president's personal and political finances.

The judge ordered Mr McDougal and his lawyers to say nothing about the reasons for the postponement. But speculation is rife about conversations held with special counsel Kenneth Starr in the Texarkana mobile home where the impoverished and ailing Mr McDougal lives.

Prosecutors allege that Mr Clinton, as governor of Arkansas in the mid-1990s, twice pressed an Arkansas banker to lend Mr McDougal \$300,000 (€200,000) in the name of Susan McDougal. Part of the money, they allege, was fraudulently used to benefit the Whitewater venture.

But the timing is all. Any political damage to Mr Clinton will have to come before November 5, election day. Mr McDougal poses two main threats to the president. He has told reporters that he "held back some stuff" - documents which are supposed to take the Whitewater affair yet further.

Earlier this week Ms McDougal was sentenced to two years for fraud in the case. Mr Clinton's successor as Arkansas governor, Jim Guy Tucker, was sentenced to

And although his credibility is thoroughly shredded, he could raise the possibility of a

perjury charge against the president if he refutes Mr Clinton's sworn denials of wrongdoing. The president testified that he had not taken part in meetings at a site office in Little Rock with Mr McDougal and a traffic court judge, David Hale, the key prosecution witness.

historian Roger Morris, is a highly coloured account of the Clintons in Arkansas, with lurid tales of cocaine parties and call girls in Little Rock. Its unattributed suggestions that Mr Clinton was recruited by the CIA to spy on the anti-war movement at Oxford have helped the book into the best-seller lists.

The Arkansas journalist Gene Lyons, by contrast, contends in *Pools for Scandal* that the Washington media had "turned itself into a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Republican Party... possibly the most politically charged case of journalistic malpractice in recent American history".

The biggest seller of them all, *Blood Sport*, by the Wall Street Journal reporter James Stewart, claimed to have found a felonious misstatement by Mrs Clinton in her property valuation statement on a Whitewater loan application. Mr Stewart later conceded that he had not read the reverse side of the document, in which Mrs Clinton has properly listed her assets.

Meanwhile the Whitewater embarrassment has become a publishing phenomenon. The bookshops are piled high with Whitewater tomes, almost all of them hostile to the president.

Partners in Power, by the

Fujimori tries to 'reinterpret' law to stand for third term in Peru

Jane Diaz-Limoco in Lima

PRESIDENT Alberto Fujimori is seeking a change in Peruvian law to let him stand for a third term in 2000.

equivalent of a king or president-for-life. If the bill is approved by congress today and becomes law, it will be the second time that the government has altered the law to allow Mr Fujimori to remain in power.

His movement, the Change 90-New Majority Alliance, introduced a bill yesterday to "authentically interpret" the constitutional clause on presidential re-election, which it says is ambiguous.

When he won the presidency in 1990, the constitution prohibited re-election. In 1992 Mr Fujimori dissolved parliament and sacked top judges in an "auto-coup" backed by the military. A new congressional body, in which his alliance held a majority, then rewrote the constitution to permit re-election once. A referendum approved this.

Earlier this week, the congressional constitutional committee approved this interpretation of the law, despite opposition protests that it was illegal.

Opposition MPs have called the bill a "coup" to make Mr Fujimori the

News in brief

Haitian opposition members shot dead

A HAITIAN opposition leader and another member of his party were killed by unidentified gunmen on Tuesday afternoon, police said.

Pastor Antoine Leroy, the number two in the conservative Mobilisation for National Development (MDN) party, and Jacques Dorval were killed near Mr Dorval's home in Delmas 19, a Port-au-Prince suburb. "Ten armed men in two vehicles shot and killed two civilians," said a United Nations spokesman, Eric Falt. Dorval's body was left in the back of his pickup truck about a block away from his home. He was handcuffed and had been shot in the head. Leroy's body was sprawled outside Dorval's house. Neighbours speculated that Dorval had been kidnapped, perhaps to disclose the whereabouts of Leroy. A local magistrate said both men were holding pistols.

UN officials said the MDN had close links with former members of the disbanded Haitian military. On Tuesday the president, René Préval, said the military was responsible for recent destabilisation of the country. — *Reuter, Port-au-Prince*.

CIA named in drug ring report

CIA-run contras in Nicaragua benefited from the profits of a drug ring in the San Francisco Bay area during the 1980s, the San Jose Mercury News has claimed.

Attempts to prosecute the ring's kingpin were thwarted by the CIA, possibly to cover up ties between the traffickers and contra leaders, the newspaper said in reports based on recently declassified federal documents, court testimony and interviews. It also claims that the drug network sold tons of cocaine to Los Angeles gangs and is partially responsible for the city's crack problem. The money flow began after the CIA combined several armies to create the anti-communist Fuerza Democrática Nicaraguense in 1981, the newspaper reported. The same year, the drug ring sold almost a ton of cocaine to the Crips and Bloods, notorious Los Angeles gangs, for \$54 million (\$36 million), said Cesar Danilo Hlandon Reyes, a former FDN leader and government informant. There is a saying that the ends justify the means," he said during testimony in 1994. "So we started raising money for the contra revolution." — *AP, San Jose*

Police suggest child sex link

SOUTH AFRICAN police said yesterday there could be a link between the child sex scandal rocking Belgium and the disappearance of five girls in Pretoria up to eight years ago.

"The modus operandi... as to what happened in Belgium and what's happening here in South Africa seems to be very, very closely related," said Pretoria's police director, Reggie Mariemuthoo. "The modus operandi in which our girls were abducted and kept in secret cellars in homes is similar to what happened in Belgium. The age groups are also more or less the same."

A South African paedophile, Ger van Rooyen, and his lover Joey Hearhof were linked by police to the disappearance of the girls, aged 11 to 15. Van Rooyen shot Hearhof and himself six years ago as police closed in. The girls were never traced, despite a thorough excavation of van Rooyen's home. The girls were said to have been kept in a cellar.

Asked about the possibility of an international child sex ring, Mr Mariemuthoo said: "It is possible. Unfortunately we don't have any information on those lines at the moment." — *Reuter, Johannesburg*.

Fears grow of Tamil exodus

INDIA and Sri Lanka are watching with concern the arrival of boat loads of Sri Lankan refugees in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, fearing a full-scale exodus.

Nearly 800 Tamil refugees from the Pasaalai area of Mannar Island in north-western Sri Lanka have reached India in the past week - 420 on Sunday alone. Many are from camps administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. They told reporters in Rameswaram, at the southern-most tip of India, that they had been harassed by government troops and Tamil Tiger rebels, and that the UN camps were short of food. The Sri Lankan government, meanwhile, said it fears a full-scale exodus and other supplies to rebel-held areas, as well as for some 200,000 people displaced in a month of fighting around the town of Kilinochchi. — *Suzanne Goldberg, New Delhi*.

US reconsidering jet deal

THE United States is debating whether to delay or cancel an agreement to sell Indonesia at least nine F-16 fighter jets, in the light of Jakarta's serious crackdown on political dissent.

Government human rights officials and some prominent members of Congress want the sale shelved because of the raids on the headquarters of President Suharto's opponents and the arrest of as many as 200 activists.

Other officials, including some at the national security council, want the sale, estimated to be worth \$200 million (\$135 million), to go ahead. They say that F-16s are not the sort of weapons used to repress dissent.

The administration will have to make its decision soon if it hopes to sell the planes this year, because Congress adjourns in October for the elections. Congress traditionally gets a 30-day notice of major arms sales. — *New York Times*.

Doctor kills himself on plane

A DOCTOR used a Swiss army knife to stab himself to death on a British Airways plane after it landed in Geneva, police said yesterday.

The Swiss man, in his 30s, plunged the knife several times into his heart in front of other passengers and died minutes later. He was returning from a trip to the United States, where he was said to have suffered psychological problems. The doctor's wife and a psychologist were waiting for him at the airport.

There was said to be no panic among other passengers, many of whom had already disembarked. — *Reuter, Geneva*.



RWANDAN Hutu refugees (above) climb on to a United Nations truck at the Magara refugee camp in Burundi yesterday to be returned to Rwanda. Up to 4,000 refugees left since they fled in 1994.

Paul Stromberg, spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Rwanda, said 3,000 to 4,000 refugees left Magara camp before heavy rain slowed the exodus. Refugees accuse the Hutu-dominated Burundian army of harassing them and say they are leaving because they fear for their lives. — *Reuter, Butare*. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID GUTTENFELDER

'Ronnie Reagan never stopped talking, even though he never had anything to say except what he had just read in the Reader's Digest. Nancy was born with a silver ladder in her hand'

GORE VIDAL

When an actor like Penn puts on a ton of hairspray it's called commitment. When an actress like Stone chooses not to wash her hair it's called presumption.

David Runciman, G2 page 7

سكنا سو الاصل

صوتنا من الامم

'We suffered as well' De Klerk tells truth body

David Beresford in Cape Town

FORMER president F.W. de Klerk apologised yesterday for the miseries of apartheid, and admitted that the security forces had committed atrocities, but his statement to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was less a wholehearted mea culpa than a fessio.

'To my knowledge, our strategies never included assassination, murder, torture, rape or assault'

than 20,000 women and children in British concentration camps. "They understood resistance," he said, evoking the Afrikaners' battles to develop their own language and cultural identity. "They also experienced poverty and deprivation," he told the commissioners, recalling the drought and depression of the 1930s which drove Afrikaners from their farms and into the cities. And so it went on, as the National Party leader conjured up a picture of his Volk as victims of times and circumstances, struggling to carve their own destiny and reluctantly finding themselves on the wrong side of history. "The issues that we debated deep into the night centred on the question of how we could come to grips with this changing world on the one hand and yet retain our own national self-determination

on the other," he said of his own appearance on the political stage as a student activist. "The solution we came up with was separate development." It was, he conceded, a "deeply mistaken" strategy which "led to injustice, growing international isolation and to the escalation of a conflict that had been smouldering since the early sixties". He insisted that the mistake was recognised by National Party government as early as 1976, when the process of reform began. But the process had run into the "global ideological struggle between the West and expansionist Soviet Communism".

The ANC, he complained, had been committed "to the revolutionary seizure of power and not to peaceful and negotiated reform". The "unconventional nature of the revolutionary thrust forced the adoption of 'unconventional counter-strategies of the kind developed by the British and others in successful campaigns against insurgency and terrorism'".

"These counter-strategies were conducted on a 'need-to-know' basis. "In dealing with the unconventional strategies from the side of government, I want to make it clear from the outset that, within my knowledge and experience, they never included the authorisation of assassination, murder, torture, rape, assault, or the like," he said.

If there were abuses of human rights by the security forces, they had to be understood in the context of unconventional war. "It would be a serious mistake to adopt a simplistic approach in judging such abuses and violations," he said. "The National Party is prepared to admit its mistakes of the past and is genuinely repentant," he added.

"In our quest for reconciliation we have apologised... we have also forgiven. And we have gone on our knees before God Almighty to pray for His forgiveness, which in the final analysis is more important than anything else." The head of the South African military, General Georg Meiring, appearing before a parliamentary committee, refused yesterday to make public details of a chemical and biological weapons programme developed during the apartheid era.

Deng clan prepares for worst



Deng Xiaoping (left) poses with his youngest daughter Deng Rong, a biographer. She is the mother of his 15-year-old granddaughter, who has been enrolled at school in California

As China's ailing leader turns 92, his family is making plans for its future, writes Andrew Higgins in Hong Kong

IN THE opaque world of Chinese politics, a 15-year-old girl newly enrolled at a private school near San Francisco offers a rare insight into a struggle now raging in Beijing over the legacy of Deng Xiaoping, who turns 92 today. Like the privileged offspring of many wealthy families in Britain's last major colony, the girl has a Hong Kong travel document, a Cantonese name and ample pocket money to enjoy an education far from home.

An important biographical detail, however, makes this teenager very different. She is the granddaughter of Deng Xiaoping. She travels under an assumed name and on Hong Kong papers instead of her Chinese passport to help disguise her identity. With Mr Deng now confined to what, sooner or later, will be his death bed in a

walled compound just north of the Forbidden City, China's first family is making plans for an uncertain and possibly perilous future. As Mr Deng's health and influence wane, so do the fortunes of his immediate family. No longer untouchable, relatives are running scared amid intriguing — if often confused — signs that the policies pioneered by Mr Deng are under increasing attack within China's faction-ridden Communist Party.

Cao Siyuan, a leading economist close to the party's liberal wing, has warned of attempts not merely to dilute but to overturn Mr Deng's free-market programme. In a polemical article published in a restricted-circulation Chinese journal, he bitterly attacked a hardline tract, known as the 10,000 Words Document, circulated among senior Chinese cadres.

"Although this debate does not yet cause too much concern, we should not shy away from imagining the most awful possibility — the chance of China again being pushed into a Cultural Revolution as in 1966," Mr Cao warns. His article — entitled 'What do those who want to negate reform and opening-up really want to do?' — has now been banned.

Despite their thunder about United States "hegemonism" and "hostile foreign forces", many well-connected Chinese send their children to university in the US or other Western countries.

The decision to enrol Mr Deng's granddaughter in school suggests more than a mere concern with her education, however. She will also be out of harm's way should the jostling for power spawn a repeat of the ferocious struggles that accompanied the death of Mao Zedong in 1976, and other leadership crises. The girl's mother is Deng Rong, Mr Deng's youngest daughter, a biographer and bedside political lip-reader. In Beijing, the teenager was

known as Yang Yang, but she will study in the US, sources say, under a pseudonym taken from Cantonese, the Chinese dialect spoken in Hong Kong.

Instead of holding celebrations in Beijing to mark Mr Deng's birthday, his chosen successor, President Jiang Zemin, and other senior leaders will be away at the seaside resort of Beidaihe, an annual summer rite that often pro-

Sending Deng's granddaughter to school in the US is about more than her education

duces the Communist Party's most important decisions. Though absent from the critical seaside conclave, Mr Deng will be central to the party's most sensitive debate — what comes after him? The question worries many people, particularly members

of Mr Deng's own family. A sign of their anxiety was a speech last month by Mr Deng's eldest son, Deng Pufang. According to samizdat copies of the address, he accused members of the leadership of seeking to "wholly negate" his father's free-market line.

An official — and many believe bowdlerised — text issued belatedly in Beijing is far milder, but still criticises attempts to place ideology before economics. "All enterprises in the former Soviet Union were state-owned but they failed in the end," Deng Xiaoping's "basic line", his son pleaded, must "remain unchanged for 100 years".

Mr Deng senior has not been seen in public since a Chinese New Year fireworks display in February 1994. He was photographed in a wheelchair staring vacantly into space.

As rumours grow more insistent that he is close to death, or even dead, officials issue routine — and increasingly ominous — reassurances that he is healthy "for a

man of his age". His family is in retreat and clearly preparing for the worst.

The departure of Deng Xiaoping's granddaughter for the US follows reports that her mother has come under criticism from the leadership for hawking a biography of her father to foreigners.

Her husband, Major-General He Ping, also appears to be in trouble. He is said to have recently lost his job as head of the Poly Group, an arms-trading subsidiary of the People's Liberation Army. The company has been implicated in a plot to smuggle Chinese-made AK-47 assault rifles into the US.

Another casualty of Mr Deng's fading authority is his youngest son, Deng Zhifang. Tainted by a corruption scandal at Shougang, a huge state-owned steelmaker once touted as a model of reform, he has lost his post as the boss of its Hong Kong subsidiary.

So long as Mr Deng remains alive, his clan — and his policies — will be spared the risk of an all-out assault. His powers to protect, however, are clearly fading.

Court to hear Iran murder link

Ian Traynor in Berlin

THE exiled former president of Iran, Abolhasan Bani-sadr, is to give evidence before a Berlin court today which may embarrass the Bonn government and worsen its already strained relations with Washington.

Mr Bani-sadr, who has lived near Paris since being toppled by the late Ayatollah Khomeini in 1981, two years after the Iranian revolution, is expected to allege that President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani of Iran and the country's paramount religious leader Ali Khamenei personally ordered the assassination of Kurdish rebels in a Berlin restaurant in 1982.

An Iranian and four Lebanese are charged with the murder of three Iranian Kurds and their translator. The trial is almost into its fourth year but the timing of Mr Bani-sadr's appearance for the prosecution is less than happy for the Bonn government, the most powerful Western opponent of the Clinton administration's policy of ostracising Tehran and punishing countries and companies that do business with Iran.

Earlier this year the Berlin justice authorities issued an arrest warrant for Iran's intelligence chief, Ali Fallahian, whom they accused of masterminding the attack at the restaurant. Mr Bani-sadr says the mur-

ders could not have occurred without the blessing of Mr Rafsanjani and Mr Khamenei. "Without their agreement, carrying out the attack was just as unlikely as it would have been without massive support from the state, for example through passports, plane tickets, money, special telephone numbers," he said in a statement in June.

He said he learned of the murder plot three months before the attack and warned one of the victims, Sadiq Sharifkindi, leader of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran.

The prosecution argues that the attack was an act of state-sponsored terrorism sanctioned at the highest levels in Tehran: an argu-

ment that tends to buttress the US case for isolating and punishing "rogue states" rather than the West European case — led by Germany — for trading and talking.

There was more embarrassment in Bonn this week when north German prosecutors disclosed that they had arrested two German businessmen suspected of helping Libya to develop its poison gas and chemical weapons programs.

In the 1980s German involvement in helping Libya build a chemical weapons plant at Rabta drew widespread outrage. The prosecutors say that the two men they have arrested supplied hi-tech equipment to the Libyans from 1980 to 1983.

Gadafy 'rounds up businessmen'

Kathy Evans

THE Libyan leader, Colonel Muammar Gadhafi, has ordered the arrest of 1,500 of the country's businessmen on charges of "corruption" and dealing in foreign goods, Libyan dissidents based in London have claimed.

Western diplomats in Tripoli say the detentions are typical of Col Gadhafi's erratic and "unfathomable" policies towards the business community. They also believe that "purification committees" newly set up by the authorities to root out corruption and black-marketeering have been closing shops and prominent firms.

Several dealers on the gold and money exchanges have been detained, as have the heads of some leading business firms from Benghazi for alleged links to rebel groups. Shops belonging to

foreigners have been burnt. An opposition spokesman in London said that among those arrested were Mohammed Abdul Jawad, the head of Libya's oil investment company, and Mohammed al-Souli, a car importer known for his connections to the country's former royal family, the Sanussis. The businessmen are believed to be held in Tajoura prison on the outskirts of Tripoli.

Despite Libya's declared liberalisation policies, the private sector is still viewed with suspicion. A huge devaluation of the dinar and an influx of foreign goods which Libyans could not afford may have triggered the latest assault on the business community.

Earlier this week riots were said to have broken out in a detention camp containing an estimated 1,000 Arab and African workers. About 400 of them have taken refuge in the Sudanese embassy in Tripoli,



Gadhafi: erratic policies

according to Khartoum. Col Gadhafi blames expatriate Arab workers for instigating a wave of Islamic dissent to his 37-year rule.

The arrests coincided with reports of increased activity by Libya's Islamic militants. Four groups, some including Libyans who fought in the Afghan war, are now trying to overthrow the Gadhafi regime.

According to diplomats, the Libyan air force carried out a week-long bombing attack in the Green Mountains, an area believed to be a rebel stronghold. Up to 150 rebels were said to have been killed. One report suggested that the pilots were Cubans and Serbs working for Libya.

Libyan officials dismissed the reports, saying routine military exercises were held in the region at the time. Diplomats said 45,000 troops were involved in an exercise practising counter-invasion techniques, and that the coastal city of Derna had been cordoned off.

Meanwhile the Islamic Fighting Group said it had attacked a military convoy near Derna and killed 18 government troops, including the Libyan leader's brother-in-law, Major Saleh Mabrouk Gadhafi. The Libyan state news agency, Jana, said yesterday that the major was still alive.

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GORE VIDAL Palimpsest

— A MEMOIR —

'Admirably candid, refreshingly indiscreet, intelligent and full of wit ... An unequivocal triumph'

WILLIAM BOYD

OUT NOW IN ABACUS PAPERBACK

Mad car disease

Government must find a cure, quickly

FREEDOM for the pike, wrote Tawney, is death to the minnow. And freedom for the motorist? Liberation for millions; but also, certainly, death for too many, and illness and misery for thousands of others, choking and fighting for breath in the kind of smogs we are starting to take for granted. The package John Gummer announced yesterday begins, at last, to address that agenda with appropriate urgency. No such urgency, however, attends his deadline, five years into the next century. Nor is there any detectable sense of urgency in his Government's financial commitment. Much of the burden is simply dumped on cash-strapped local government. Mr Gummer has got the message. A shame it hasn't got through to his colleagues.

Yet choking pollution is only one of the menacing consequences of what Margaret Thatcher called the Great Car Economy. There is also the curse of traffic noise: at a time when in other contexts people's rights to be protected from neighbourhood noise are increasingly acknowledged, they have no defence against the juggernaut thundering past the window. And unless there is drastic action, it is going to get worse. The Council for the Protection of Rural England this week published frightening evidence of what the Great Car Economy is about to do to towns and villages all over the land. In much of Britain, traffic will double or treble over the next 30 years, affecting not just major roads but what we now think of as country lanes, not even A or B roads, yet carrying comparable volumes of traffic. The lesson that building new roads encourages traffic growth has dawned at last on that great redoubt of the friends of road traffic, the Department of Transport. Road building has been drastically cut. But if the consequence of that is to cram twice as much traffic into existing road space, our last

state will be worse than our first. Politicians have ducked this problem for far too long. Parity for fear of the costs of remedial action (though in fact the additional costs of a rational transport policy would be offset by substantial savings) but also from fear of public opinion. Voters are deeply ambivalent. They accept that we can't go on muddling through as we have been; they sense that only radical change will curb the use of our roads; yet almost every practical scheme for effective action is distrusted as an unfair constraint on their freedom to drive as they choose.

But that, 30 years ago, was much how people tended to think about plans for the breathalysers. Despite much public obloquy, Labour's transport minister, Barbara Castle, insisted that legislation had to proceed in the interests of public safety. It is just as much in the public interest today to reduce our national dependence on, even addiction to, travel by motor car. That won't be done without some measures which hurt. It won't for instance be done unless we get tough with the company car — an institution which might have been specifically devised to encourage people to clog our cities. It won't be done in a climate of deregulation: anyone who believes that it can should spend half an hour in the slipstream of one of the many antique and fume-ridden buses which privatisation has drafted on to our roads. It won't be done without that comprehensive transport policy which governments have consistently failed to provide over many decades. And it won't be done unless public opinion accepts the logical outcome of a situation it increasingly knows in its bones cannot continue. The toll which motor traffic is taking on public health and public well-being far exceeds that of most of the dangers that constantly hit the headlines. Perhaps we need to start thinking in terms of Mad Car Disease.

Turn the spotlight on standards

Is enough being done to ensure GCSE targets for 2000 are met?

FIRST the good news. This year's 16-year-olds have done well. For the ninth year in succession, the proportion gaining A to C grades in GCSE has increased. Let the 600,000 who receive their results this morning take a bow. Over half of all pupils taking English — and just under a half in mathematics and science — have achieved a C or above. In all three core subjects, the proportion obtaining an A or starred A has gone up. Before the "moaning minnies" begin to talk today about falling standards, let no one forget what was going on before GCSE was introduced in 1988: two separate and inflexible examinations (GCE and CSE) were only taken by 60 per cent of secondary school pupils leaving 40 per cent without recognised qualifications. Now over 90 per cent leave with something.

Of course it is not all good news although just how bad the bad news is never emerges until later in the year, to the shame of the GCSE boards. If the boards can publish aggregate results of the 600,000 candidates, then they should also be able to provide other basic information such as the number of 16-year-olds not obtaining any passes. Once again they failed to provide such telling statistics. What we do know is that the proportion failing to get any GCSE passes has been slowly rising. It reached eight per cent last year. We also know there is a twofold gap between the top and bottom 20 per cent — with the top gaining the equivalent in points of 12 C's and the bottom only

getting the equivalent of one C. Nothing published yesterday suggests any change to these two depressing trends. There was mixed evidence about a third worry: whether schools were stopping pupils taking exams in order to climb higher up exam league tables. There was only a one per cent increase in subjects taken even though there is a three per cent rise in the number of 16-year-olds. Against this, the increase in pupils taking maths, english and science matched the demographic increase in pupil numbers. The figures seem to have been skewed by technology, which suffered a large drop in entries now that it is no longer obligatory. But there is one assured way of stopping schools excluding poor pupils from exams: value added tables which require schools to measure the progress of all their pupils.

The challenge facing the education system is not grade inflation, but whether standards are rising fast enough to achieve the target set for the year 2000: 85 per cent of 16-year-olds achieving five passes at GCSE at grades A to C or their vocational equivalent. Last year's 43.5 per cent GCSE figure was only pushed up to 68 per cent by vocational qualifications. It is the poor level of vocational qualifications where the spotlight should fall: 64 per cent of trainees drop out before completing their NVQ courses and a further third fail to achieve the necessary level. Youth training schemes just have to improve.

Mr Howard's identity crisis

At £15 a card, how many people will want it anyway?

IF ONLY the whole business of identity cards had been left where the home secretary Reggie Maudling consigned it 25 years ago when he said these would not be introduced if Britain joined the Common Market. Ever since then the idea has brought nothing but grief to the Tory party — never mind to those concerned with civil liberties. Maggie Thatcher performed a celebrated U-turn over IDs for football spectators. Four years ago the Government announced that the argument for ID cards did not justify the cost. Then the issue was rediscovered by the flogging lobby and the catch-the-scrumpers brigade: John Major was tempted to have another go at what his advisers said would be a neat way to "trump Tony Blair". Instead he and Michael Howard have come very close to trumping themselves with a sceptical public and party.

The row over what sort of symbol should be printed on the "voluntary"

card threatened to reduce a serious issue to the ultimate absurdity. The 12-star EU symbol was unacceptable to Tory Euro-sceptics. The Union Jack would be rejected by nationalists in Northern Ireland. The Royal Crest somehow managed to upset both lots simultaneously. Mr Howard, ducking to deflect criticism, hastily proclaimed that whatever happened it would not be a "European card".

That of course is precisely what it is: Mr Howard is only able to come up with a compromise solution now because Brussels has agreed that member states may add colours, markings, bar codes, national symbols and security features to the approved design. It now seems that there will now be a whole clutch of cards with different symbolic permutations to avoid offence, and Northern Ireland left out of it altogether. But at £15 quid, how many people are going to think that it will do nicely?



Letters to the Editor

No care for the children of vice

YOUR report on child prostitution in Bradford (Lead story, August 21) leads me to ask why some of the people who are so swift into the arms of the unscrupulous. More importantly for the state — why do they run from the care system? Had you approached any of the country's growing number of independent children's rights officers, you would have found that many of the answers lie in residential care practice — answers which are unpalatable for both local authorities and care organisations like Barnardos.

My own research — not a million miles away from Bradford — reveals a world where many young people in care live out a childhood of restriction locked up illegally, prevented from making telephone calls, and left to sleep in corridors when there "isn't room". The relationship between punishment and assault is blurred. It can mean being dangled upside down, having your head smashed on the floor or having your bed soaked.

Institutional catering and bulk-food buying results in never learning to shop or to cook. To manage the unruly behaviour of a young person when, on leaving care, she is faced with collective cooking facilities in a seedy hostel. And sexual assault often goes unreported because young people believe that complaints will not be taken seriously.

Children and young people

should be protected and any one who attempts to have sex with them, or who controls them, should be bonded by the police and the authorities. Arresting, charging and publicly naming these men would be a first step.
 Ian S Mawson.
 Co-ordinator,
 St Hilda's Education Project,
 Sussex Street, Middlesbrough,
 Cleveland TS2 1BQ.

YOUR honest and helpful editorial (Chasing the wrong target, August 21) refers to the duty placed on the police and social services under the 1989 Children Act to protect those under 18 from "significant harm". When it comes to prostitution that just doesn't happen.

There are boys and girls in every major town and city in Great Britain who today will put themselves at risk by selling their bodies on the streets. Most of them are known to the police and social services. Many are in local-authority residential care.

Children's homes are meant to be safe places, but for many children it was going into such an environment that first led them into prostitution. The proposals in your editorial are admirable but for any positive action to happen there needs to be far more honesty from the police and social services about the scale of the problem and their present failure to deal with it.
 (Rev) Pat Brown,
 St Andrew's Methodist Church,
 6 Lowercroft, Woodthorpe,
 Nottingham NG6 4JR.

CONGRATULATIONS to Maggie O'Kane and Barnados for demonstrating that Bradford has a prostitution problem which is actually a childcare problem. However, it is worth setting the more horrific aspects of sexual abuse against the background of a population growth unique to Britain's conurbations. While other metropolitan districts have a declining population, Bradford is expecting an increase of 6,000 under-15s over the period 1991-2001.

In the short term, there seems little prospect of any new government responding to this unique population growth. Meanwhile, "routine" child-protection services in the city are severely overstretched with demands for crisis intervention leaving few opportunities for preventative work. We need government agencies to think about population and not just about prostitution when Bradford impinges on their consciousness.
 (Rev) Geoff Reid,
 Touchstone Centre,
 32 Merton Road,
 Bradford BD7 1RE.

I AM staggered at your editorial in advertising the availability of under-age women for sex with provocative pictures of them on your front page. How can you seriously imagine that your photograph is not an enticement?
 Malcolm Williams,
 Westbourne Road,
 West Kirby, The Wirral L48.

In Whitehall's secret world

I WAS surprised to see Tony Benn spring to the defence of Harold Wilson (Letters, August 20), particularly when he writes in his diaries that his opinion of Wilson was "very low indeed". We commissioned the Secret History film not to "repeat old smears" but to find out what was going on in the months before Wilson's surprise resignation.

The programme demonstrated that there was a group of disaffected MI5 officers out to discredit Wilson. Lord Hunt confirmed the nature of the problem. Wilson's health also clearly contributed to the timing of his decision to go and it's hard to believe why Benn cannot accept that if he knew so well that Wilson intended to resign, why does he say in his diaries that "no body [at cabinet] knew it was coming".
 Alan Hayling,
 Dep Commissioning Editor,
 Documentaries, Channel 4,
 12 Rensley Road,
 London SW1P 2TX.

HAVING worked with many outstanding Royal Navy colleagues over the years, I felt that Richard Thomas (Fighting off the Navy blues, August 17) missed the point. His two different images of naval officers — one in command at sea, the other in the MoD — were not mutually exclusive. The captain of a warship or submarine carries a level of personal and immediate responsibility for the lives of his people beyond the experience of most of your readers. That some of these fighting commanders can also make a successful transition to the consensus-seeking, committee-led, shared responsibility of Whitehall demonstrates their flexibility, good humour and intellect.

As the Royal Navy shrinks, British industry should be snapping up these paragons. (Air Marshal) Sir Timothy Garden,
 National Liberal Club,
 Whitehall Place,
 London SW1A 2HE.

ALTHOUGH David McKie claims to be a friend of the footnote (Step forward, all friends of the footnote, August 21), I notice that he is using the modernisers' method of associating footnote with text on the same page. Genuine footnotes are always at the end of the text, where finding them is a veritable voyage of discovery.
 Edward O Greening,
 25 Garden Street,
 London E1.

What to do with the Prince of Wales (and the Prince of Darkness)

YOUR article on the royal family (Change would have little effect on who is in line, August 20) misses the point. Ending the law of male succession would put Prince Anne fourth in line to the throne, not fifth. More importantly, should Prince Charles renounce his right to the throne not in favour of his son but in the manner of his grand-uncle, Edward VIII — "I renounce the throne for myself and for my descendants" — then Princess Anne would become queen.

Thus, what appears to be a simple act of modernisation could in fact be a ploy, of Machiavellian proportions, to excise the "troublesome" consequence of the Spencer and Ferguson marriages from the royal family once and for all.
 P McGoldrick,
 9 Station Approach,
 Sudbury, Midx HA0 2LA.

IT IS possible to resolve the monarch/president controversy relatively easily by creating a presidency which has Prince Charles as the first occupant for a limited period (without election). This could be done via the required clauses in a Bill of Rights.

I HAVE THEREFORE DECIDED TO RENOUNCE MY RIGHT TO THE THRONE AND THAT OF MY HEIRS IN ORDER TO LIVE THE WOMAN I DON'T LOVE

After a term of (say) seven years, the posts of monarch and president could separate, with the latter becoming an elected head of state. The monarch (and family) could be allowed to retire into well-earned privacy and obscurity. They could finance themselves from their existing investments and perhaps even undertake national ceremonial duties for fees according to a published scale.

Prince Charles could be allowed to contest the presidential election as could any other nominated citizen. He should be required to relinquish the monarchy to a sibling or offspring of either sex in order to ensure the separation of duties and the subsequent conversion of the royal family into a socially (but not constitutionally) first family.
 H Lawless,
 121 Lund Road,
 Huddersfield HD3 3TZ.

AS an impoverished taxpayer who has no choice but to support the lavish lifestyle of the House of Windsor, I am wondering if I might be entitled to Legal Aid to take out an injunction to stop the royal family from continually reminding me how privileged they are.
 J M Hanna,
 9 Alexandra Road,
 Turpin Lane,
 London N8 0PJ.

DESPITE recent wholly unjustified criticism of his Royal role for the Prince of Darkness, August 21), the Labour Party needs Peter Mandelson too much to spare him for the royal family. World Bernard Ingham not do?
 Geoffrey Robinson MP,
 House of Commons,
 London SW1A 0AA.

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A Country Diary

EGGLESTON, TESDALE: Revisiting a favourite haunt always provokes mixed feelings of expectation and trepidation, but as we squeezed through the stone stile in the bridge parapet that spans Eggleston Burn all looked much as I remembered it. The steep track descended through pine, birch and alder. Far below, peaty water running off the moorland slid over polished sandstone boulders.

Above us, grassy banks covered with betony, harebells and devil's bit scabious stretched to the skyline. We stopped to watch a family of spotted flycatchers snatching insects from the air, then pushed on to our first objective: an ancient alder with a full-sized rowan growing from its crown.
 A blackbird dropping with a rowan stone near have fallen into a crevice in the alder. From there the rowan roots have grown down through the rotten branch and bole to reach the soil, giving the epiphytic alder enough stability and nutrients to outgrow its host. In

autumn, as the rowan berries turn scarlet, it makes a curious sight. When we reached the burn we sat and watched aethna dragonflies catching insects under the trees, with one dragonfly performing an aerial manoeuvre that I've never seen before, a perfect head-over-heels somersault, with barely a missed wingbeat.

We finally reached our main objective — a mossy mire on the fellside, studded with ivory-white blooms of grass of parnassus, each with a ring of glistening yellow-green stamens that mimic nectar but offer insects no reward.
 Then a commotion of swallows drew our attention to the horizon. They were mobbing a buzzard, that drifted over us in wide circles, without a trace of concern for its hysteria, with its pick-a-back tree and deceptive flowers, is still a magical place, where some-saunting dragonflies and a wandering buzzard come as no great surprise.
 PHIL GATES

كوكا كولا

صوتنا من الامم

Diary
Matthew Norman

THE world of counselling is mourning one of its brightest stars. A formal announcement in the Journal of the British Association for Counselling reveals that Member Number 33436, from the Oldham branch, has been expelled. The announcement, signed by general manager Judith Baron, claims that under Article 5 of the BAC's Articles, Bernard Manning "brought counselling into disrepute, misrepresented his membership status, gave good reason to believe there had been a serious breach... and so on. Mr Manning... joined the BAC back in February, was unaware of his expulsion until we rang. "Oh dear, they've not kicked me out have they?" said the former specialist in racial awareness and sexual matters. "They never told me they were doing that. I ought to take them to court, because they should have given me a chance to defend myself. I'm not sure what to do now. I'm so upset I might have to see a counsellor myself."

Next week's *Esquire* magazine is an intriguing piece called *Diana's Revenge*. "Princess Diana, in a playful mood," the caption beneath a row of pictures, "gets her own back on top royal photographer Martin Stenning." What splendid timing. "The Princess enjoys a good chase," says the author, banned by injunction from going within 300 yards of her. "It's just a little game she enjoys playing. There are no hard feelings..."

MEANWHILE, how cheering to note the change of editor at *Monty* Montsomery's *Daily Mirror*. The paper was beside itself yesterday at barrister Julia Samuel's observation, in the Harvey Nichols video snooping case, that women who show a bit of cleavage are asking to be photographed. "Her remarks - condemning every woman who ever goes shopping to becoming victim of a sick voyeur - sparked outrage last night," harrumphed the *Mirror* in a story memorably headlined *You Can Spy On Diana's Breasts*. This is an encouraging development. It was, of course, the same *Daily Mirror* which bought pictures of Diana working out at a gym, taken by a hidden camera. Hats off, Monty!

At the Mail on Sunday, the power struggle between co-editors Jonathan Holborow and Oswald, his white cotton handkerchief, goes on. Mr Holborow recently dispatched two hacks to find out the extra-marital lover of a New Labour figure. "When the pair reported a fortnight later that it was a member of his own staff, the former shopper was paralysed with indecision. "He had no idea what to do," says an MoS source. "So Oswald took over and spiced the whole thing. Holborow had a decent enough sumner, but now the hankie's getting on top again."

FROM the Erse-speaking island of Tory off the coast of Donegal, with a population of 140, comes a flicker of hope for the northern Ireland peace process. A recent visitor to Tory was one Harry Erne, a Viscount and (as Lord Lieutenant), the Queen's representative in County Fermanagh. Lord Erne, who went with a head of state during a folk-music festival, was seen in the island's hotel listening to singing... and there, just behind him, was Mr Gerry Adams. Whether he had arranged to meet is unclear. Lord Erne was out yesterday, but his wife denied collusion. "Oh, well, they didn't meet, actually," said Lady Erne. "It's quite funny, isn't it? Everybody had heard the news, but Adams was there, but he didn't see him. It's a beautiful place, though. Bye."

MANCHESTER'S gay village becomes more popular all the time, with this weekend's gay and lesbian Mardi Gras expecting up to 25,000 people. With the action focused around Canal Street, organisers are hopeful that the people who have stolen the letter "G" from the street sign will return it before the fun begins.



Pig of a problem in the operating theatre

Commentary George Monbiot

TONIGHT Channel 4 tells the disturbing story of a 13-year-old girl who, because she has Down's syndrome, has been denied the heart-and-lung transplant which is her only hope of survival. Hospitals argue that a severe shortage of suitable organs means they must make hard choices about who gets transplants. They give priority to "normal" people, rather than to people whose lives after the transplant would still not be considered "whole".

Their valuation of human life seems crushing unfair, but there's no question about the shortage of organs. Almost 5,000 people in Britain are waiting for new kidneys, and hundreds have almost lost hope of receiving new hearts, lungs or livers. People with Down's syndrome - though many are afflicted with failing hearts - are not even included on the waiting lists. Every year the death of suitable organs condemns scores of people to a slow and

horrible death. It is hardly surprising that there is a rush to get round the problem. But the ethics of the proposed solutions may be just as unwholesome as the ethics of leaving Joanna to die.

In the United States, which has a problem very much like ours, there is now an increasingly vociferous lobby in favour of reversing the 1984 National Organ Transplant Act, and enabling the sale of human organs. The Act, the lobbyists argue, denies the poor an opportunity to use their assets to improve their prospects.

In India, for example, desperate people will ward off starvation by selling bodily parts. Corneas go for £2,500 (leaving the donor blind in one eye), kidneys for £500 and patches of skin for £30. The trade is largely voluntary, it is the only means of warding off destitution in truly voluntary. But wherever there is a market there is, of course, the possibility of coercion - ruthless people deceiving or bullying the poor and using their resources. The press in many Third World countries abounds with tales of such practices - of drugged people waking up to find their eyes have gone, of children being kidnapped and killed for their organs, of anaesthetised patients losing their kidneys. Some are exaggerated, some are wholly fictitious, yet

some, like the case of the mental hospital in Argentina which sold organs from at least 2,000 patients, are well documented. When human organs bear a price, life itself becomes a tradeable commodity.

It is, quite rightly, illegal to buy organs in Britain, but not, according to the Department of Health, to travel abroad to get them. But the chief hopes of people like Joanna and her parents lie not with humans, but with pigs. Some researchers believe that, within a few years, transplants of whole organs from animals to humans will be routine. "Xenotransplantation", its proponents say, averts the moral dangers of a trade in human organs, while ensuring a supply of bodily parts to hospitals as regular as the supply of meat to supermarkets.

The xenotransplantation debate has so far concentrated almost exclusively on the risks of generating new human diseases. These are, researchers acknowledge, unquantifiable. Pathogens which may have lain harmless and undetected in a pig could, in the new environment of a human body, burst into malign fecundity. Earlier this year the Nuffield Council on Bioethics recommended that anyone receiving a xenotransplant should be closely monitored for unusual diseases for the rest of

his life. For the same reason, apes and monkeys should not be used as organ sources. These seem to be sensible precautions, and may well be included in the Kennedy Commission's report on the ethics of xenotransplantation, which is due to be published by the Department of Health within the next few months. But in the United States, researchers are working to a different set of standards, following an Institute of Medicine report proposing that transplants from primates are acceptable. As new human diseases are international problems, proceeding without an international protocol looks hazardous.

But even if we overcome the risks of disease, there is a real danger that the principal ethical questions are being fudged. Protagonists of xenotransplantation tell us that involved have been patented. To get a patent, your process must be both novel and inventive - in other words, a clear conceptual step beyond what has gone before. The researchers can't have it both ways. Either xenotransplantation is merely the continuation of a tradition, and therefore ineligible for patents, or it is novel and patentable, and begs a whole new set of ethical questions.

For example, some xenotransplantation operations - such as bone-marrow grafts - will work only if the animal cells migrate throughout the human body, so that the patient becomes a cellular mixture of human and animal. What does this mingling do to our identity? What does the receipt of the heart and lungs of a pig do to a patient's sense of self? Are, in turn, the transgenic pigs in any sense human? Do they have a different set of rights?

But technology is racing ahead of ethics. The Papworth Hospital in Cambridge, which may be the first place in the world to make a realistic attempt at the transplantation of a whole animal organ into a human body. The director of transplant services says he "will probably wait" until the Kennedy Commission report, but hopes to begin human trials within a year or two.

One of the most extraordinary adventures humankind has ever undertaken - the breaking down of barriers between ourselves and other species - is about to begin, attended, remarkably, by the virtual absence of public debate on any but technical matters. To Joanna and her parents, advocating a moratorium on xenotransplantation trials until we've thought much harder about what we're doing must seem like yet another cruel blow. But this issue is simply too big to be left to the whims of a few individuals. Technology is no substitute for ethics.

One of the most extraordinary adventures humankind has ever undertaken is about to begin

there are no new ethical issues at stake. Humans, they say, have practised biotechnology for millennia. This is simply another step along that road, qualitatively no different from breeding dachshunds or preparing vaccinations.

But ordinary pigs are no good for transplantation. Human DNA must be added to their genome in order to prevent patients from rejecting their organs. Both the "transgenic" donor pigs and the experimental processes

Beware the battle-cries of 'experts'



Meg Henderson

LOUCESTER Road was the start of it, then Dunblane. Before Fred and Rosemary West were discovered, and before Thomas Hamilton committed murder in the school gym, their sexual leanings had been apparent to many. The perversions of Sophie Hook's killer were also well known for years. Now the news that children's bodies are being dug up in the basement of a Belgian house has sent fresh ripples of fear through every family. It's a natural reaction; anxiety is programmed into parents in order that children will be protected. But...

with a particular axe to grind. One faction simply wanted men locked up - forget helping the children, just lock the bastards up and throw away the key. They didn't bother with diversions, like the number of women who abuse. Their one and only conviction was that all men had the physical equipment, ergo, all men were potential child abusers, as though ability equalled inclination. Males, criticised for their inability to show affection, who had been encouraged to become involved with their children, instead became wary of touching them. A good thing too, said the "experts": all men should restrain their attitudes to physical contact. Bunkum again; children need spontaneous physical contact with both parents, with aunts and uncles, without implanting in their minds that there is something wrong about it. Unless, that is, we want future generations unable to form relationships with the opposite sex.

The other group of hijackers were those self-appointed "experts": careers were founded on sexual abuse, gurus scrambled to the mountain summit to dictate words of dubious wisdom to the masses; they wrote books, did talk-shows, and their wisdom was rarely questioned. But now the bandwagon has moved on; no one wants to hear about sexual abuse any longer, something even worse is needed to capture the jaded attention of the masses. Eight years after Dunblane came Belgium. The next step is paedophilia.

Some 10 or so years ago, when the sexual-abuse bandwagon got into gear, I was fostering abusee children - they did actually exist before the Big Discovery. I can clearly remember being among those trying to apply the brakes, and for advising caution we were almost branded as heretics. No one listened, except those who marked us down in their little notebooks as potential, if not hardened, abusers.

Myth became accepted as fact. "Children don't lie about such things" became the battle-cries of the "experts", who suddenly appeared from nowhere. Bunkum, we said, children lie about everything; it is patent nonsense to suggest that one section of the population does not lie about one subject. The danger was that the experiences and suffering of those who had been abused would be devalued by the constant cries of wolf; that dogma would lead social workers to falsely assume that sexual abuse was at the root of every problem. There was very little quality therapy for sexually-abused children, and there was no evidence of the bandwagon would address that problem. It didn't; but then that wasn't the intention. The whole subject was hijacked by those

SPÉCULATION about international paedophile rings without hard evidence has about it the same whiff of hysteria as satanic abuse. "Experts" are now cropping up everywhere to warn that paedophiles are not monsters, they are ordinary people. Often they seek to work with children, and children trust them. All true, but let's stop for a minute and think. Before the next battle-cries become "Your next-door neighbour is a paedophile", before we assume that everyone who likes children is a danger, before embarking on yet another terror ride and giving the next band of gurus an undeserved career opportunity, we should take a deep breath and try to be rational.

There have always been paedophiles. Such people are not the result of some new virus. Some, like the Wests, Howard Hughes, who murdered Sophie Hook, and Marc Dutroux in Belgium, had previous convictions for crimes against children. What we should perhaps be addressing is how their earlier crimes were dealt with by the authorities. We do need to protect our children, but part of that is not terrifying them into fearing every adult who smiles at them. And not believing that every "expert" is



Conrad Russell argues that the way to free patronage from 'the slimy trail of finance' is to reform party funding - and free the House of Lords of control by the executive

Who pays the piper

WHENEVER there has been government, there has been patronage, and wherever there has been patronage, there has been resentment. The ruler who raises "the slimy trail of finance" like King Henry I or King Richard II, surrounded by corrupt cronies like the proverbial tyrant, are types as old as government. When King Edward IV was in power on a rainy day, turned up dripping with wet and covered with water weed, complaining that "the rivers be so high there is no getting through them",

not heeded it have tended to run into trouble. There is nothing new about peering going to those who have contributed to the funding of political parties. This should be met by reform of party funding and wider terms of reference for the Political Honours Scrutiny Committee. It is also clear that such concerns have always been most intense at times when large amounts of Crown property are being sold off.

Yet even if this is an old story, the concern about the Demon Blair posters is some-

New Danger poster was merely offensive. The Demon Blair poster, as the actor photographed for it has realised, is something different.

The attempt to demonise one's political opponents (and there can be no reasonable doubt that that is what it was) is an attempt to dehumanise them, and therefore to deprive them of the protection of normal society restraints. It is the exact opposite of what the House of Lords is all about. When Lord Saatchi sits in the House of Lords, as I am sure

Henry II should have said if taken to task immediately after he had spoken them, for the words "Will no one rid this turbulent priest?"

At the very least, demonising opponents must make government by consent, if they should be electorally successful, even more difficult than it is already. It is an even more curious exercise when applied to a Labour leader whose policies differ so much less from those of this Government than those of any previous Labour leader. This is, as I

coming from a party which is in favour of a purely nominated House of Lords. The hereditary peerage is not a good system and does not confer legitimacy, but at least their benefactors have the advantage of being dead. Obligations to Queen Victoria or to Henry VIII do not dictate current political behaviour. A corrupt deal 300 years old creates no present-day political obligations. Pure heredity and pure nomination are both bad systems, but at least each may occasionally temper the evils of the other.

The prime function of the House of Lords is to check the executive, whose control of the House of Commons is now nearly complete. It is hard to see how a House entirely nominated by the executive would be competent to do this job. "The man whom the King delighted to honour" has never been the man who tells him he is suffering from political halitosis. That task must be done by people immune from living patronage. Tony Blair today is a wronged man. It is because he is a wronged man that he must go away and think again about how he should reform the Lords.

Previous cases of demonising opponents have preceded attempts to kill them, as the Jews know very well.
Dr Mawhinney would probably say I had no sense of humour

thing out of the ordinary, as the intervention of the Bishop of Oxford illustrates. Conservative Central Office's attempt to dismiss him as a "sneering so-called intellectual from Islington" was an unpardonable assault on one of the most courteous non-party figures in the House of Lords. The responsibility for this, as for the poster, rests on the customer not on the craftsman. It is Dr Mawhinney, not Lord Saatchi, whom we should be attacking. The New Labour,

he will, his effectiveness as a lethal advertiser will be very much diminished. Whether this loss or their gain is not for me to say.

The word lethal is not a figure of speech. It has been pointed out that previous cases of demonising opponents have preceded attempts to kill them, as the Jews know very well. Dr Mawhinney, faced with this point, would probably say I had no sense of humour, and it was all a joke. Is that what

have said, not a party matter. Labour may be the injured party today, but they too have demonised opponents, as the voters of Littleborough and Saddleworth well remember. They too have given peacocks donors to party funds. They too have given peacocks to people whose lives have not stood up to scrutiny. So has my own party, and so has every other regime as far back as records will stretch.

What is curious is that this outcry against patronage is

Conrad Russell is the 5th Earl Russell (or 18th). He is a Liberal Democrat working peer

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Digby Baltzell

Stinger of the WASPs

DIGBY BALTZELL, who has died aged 80, looked, spoke and dressed in the very image of that powerful social phenomenon which this Ivy League sociologist immortalised with the term WASP.

Legend has it that the concept emerged by accident in 1964, when Baltzell was preparing statistical tables for his ground-breaking book *The Protestant Establishment, Aristocracy and Caste in America*. One of the tables compared the educational and income levels of various ethnic groups. White Anglo-Saxon Protestant was too long for the column, so he shortened it to WASP.

A cliché was born. To Baltzell's amusement and occasional irritation, as the term became faintly derogatory about the very people who used to call other ethnic groups names. The real irony was that Baltzell put into general circulation a useful nickname just as the WASP establishment's long socio-economic dominance was

ending. The book was being written while John Kennedy, a Boston Irish-Catholic with a Harvard veneer, was President. And the only classic WASP to have been elected to the White House since was George Bush, who waited so far from his New England patrician roots that he claimed to be a Texan.

Much of Baltzell's subsequent work was devoted to the decline of the WASP, which he argued in his University of Pennsylvania lectures, was the result of too much inbreeding and too much resistance to the rising energies of Catholics, Jews, Asians and other groups who have enriched the American talent pool. "People talk about what Episcopals have done and their power, but what Jews have done in the United States since World War Two is now the great untold story," he concluded in 1981.

He also questioned whether the WASP phenomenon was nationwide or restricted to New England. In 1978, he published another striking book, *Puritan Boston and Quaker*

Philadelphia: Two Protestant Ethics and the Spirit of Class Authority and Leadership. Although far less read than *The Protestant Establishment*, it punctured the assumption that WASPs were WASPs wherever they were found. He contrasted the Boston uppercrust with their char-

'He was able to insinuate the idea of aristocracy into a democratic culture'

table works, public institutions of learning and the arts and high-minded sense of civic duty, with the far more casual behaviour of Philadelphia's similar institutions. He concluded that the New England Puritan tradition was far more public-spirited, if far more bossy, than the Quaker tradition brought by William Penn to Pennsylvania.

For Baltzell, the essence of the WASP was public responsibility, noblesse oblige, and the code of the gentleman. He mourned the passing of amateur sport and his last book, *Sporting Gentlemen*, was a lament over the vulgarisation of tennis.

He mourned rather less the fading dominance of the WASP, on the grounds that it could only be justified by upholding the old code of public service, and the 20th-century WASPdom were simply not up to the job. "He was able to insinuate the idea of aristocracy into a democratic culture," commented Professor Irving Louis Horowitz, a colleague and also Baltzell's publisher. "Not an easy task, and he did it well."

Baltzell was born in Philadelphia, into classic WASP circumstances, and reared in the very proper district of Chestnut Hill. His father was a wealthy insurance broker. The family faith was Episcopalian and he went to St Paul's in New Hampshire, one of the handful of Ameri-

can prep schools that echo the English public school.

He took his first degree at the Ivy League University of Pennsylvania in 1939 and his doctorate in sociology from Columbia in 1942, and in between he was a Navy pilot in the Pacific, just like George Bush. He wore tweed jackets and bow ties and bought his striped shirts from London. He was still enjoying walking holidays in Britain until recently.

A fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and of Harvard and Princeton, he taught at Pennsylvania from 1947 until his retirement in 1968. He married his first wife, an actress, after her death. In 1981, he married Jocelyn Carlson, who survives him, along with two daughters and two stepdaughters and his brother, William.

Martin Walker

Edward Digby Baltzell, Ivy League sociologist, born November 14, 1915; died August 17, 1996



Humphrey Fisher... from sport to science via stately homes and household pets

Humphrey Fisher

Taking television into the operating theatre

HUMPHREY FISHER, a pioneering BBC television producer who has died aged 72, had a lean and hungry look: but there the comparison with Cassius ends, for he was an excellent colleague and a true and delightful friend.

Perhaps because he was born into the Establishment — the fourth of six sons of Lord Fisher of Lambeth, Archbishop of Canterbury — he was able to penetrate two of its bastions, medicine and scientific research, for the first time on television. Certainly his birth never prevented him from enjoying life and despising pomposity. He was pleased to regard himself as the black sheep of the family and rejoiced in telling everyone he had been asked to leave Cambridge because of dilatoriness.

He was effortlessly absorbed into a BBC which was still the home of the gifted amateur in 1960. But in Television Outside Broadcasts, mostly transmitted live, he was soon driven towards a professionalism which bore him through a long career that could try the nerves of the toughest producer.

He started with sport, then graduated to stately home visits mingled with programmes about household pets (*Good Companions*) before taking on, in 1962, a new series, *Your Life in Their Hands* (also known as *Their Knife in Your Glands*). The idea was to demystify medicine by transmitting — mostly live, be-

cause there was no videotape then — surgical operations on actual patients.

It was the first time TV cameras had been allowed into the operating theatre and the experience left the medical profession jangling with discord. Many members of the British Medical Association felt that medicine was a secret garden in which laymen had better not tread. But Fisher had a staunch ally in Dr Charles Fletcher, who stood up to his colleagues and ably and sympathetically presented the programmes which ran until 1965.

FISHER went on to produce a number of "science spectacles" — large-scale studio programmes tackling such subjects as the human cell and cancer. They were marked by large studio models, film inserts, and a density of scientific prose that baffled the audience as surely as the pictures may have enlightened it. These were the days when scientists thought several times before appearing on TV for fear of what colleagues might say too often. Popularity was slighted for being vulgar or trivial.

He caught the caution in the wind and, when a magazine programme called *Challenge* — an annual review of achievements in science — was proposed, he refused to do it because he did not believe science could be chopped up in a magazine format. *Challenge* — forerun-

ner of *Tomorrow's World* — was given to me to produce (I had arrived from the Daily Mirror and was regarded as talented). It was a success — and the first person to appear at my door the following day was Humphrey admitting his mistake.

After a spell as the BBC's Australian representative, he became head of the Science and Features department in 1967. As several successive heads discovered, it was not a happy experience because of difficult relationships within the group.

He returned to Australia in 1969 to join the Australian Broadcasting Commission — as much as his wife's prompting and he had become a journalist and TV personality there. Humphrey spent the rest of his life in Australia.

His departure from the BBC was a great loss. Much is made of his charming idleness and his close attention to the golf course. The truth is more complex. When there was work to do, he did it but he had the gift of thinking twice as quickly as anybody else and used the time saved more profitably than sitting in the office.

Glyn Jones

Humphrey Fisher, television producer, born August 23, 1923; died August 2, 1996

Uzo Egonu

Metaphor's master



Artist of allegory... Uzo Egonu and (right) part of his work 'East and West Present via the Diaspora'



UZO EGONU, who has died aged 64, was described as Africa's finest painter. But Egonu was not only an African artist. From the age of 14 he had lived in England and like many black intellectuals, played an important part in postwar British artistic life.

Egonu, as Olu Oguibe wrote, challenged the western myth of the naive African artist by setting his work within a modernist tradition, combining two visual languages — based on his "critical encounter" with western art and an awareness of his African heritage and the experience of post-colonial Nigeria.

He was born in Onitsha, eastern Nigeria. His father, Henry was a colonial civil servant, who recognised his son's talent and supported him. Encouraged by his teachers, he took private tuition and by the

time he left school, decided he wanted to become a painter. Formal art education in Nigeria was then in its infancy, so Henry Egonu followed the customary path for Nigeria's emerging westernised class and sent his son to Britain for further education.

In 1945 Uzo arrived in England. After four years at a Norfolk private school he studied painting and topography at Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts. There followed two years travelling in Europe, studying old and modern masters and African art.

Back in London, he supported himself by selling occasional drawings and water colours. His first patron was a rich Gambian who provided financial security and set him off on his artistic journey. By the early 1960s he was developing his own style and selling his work through gal-

eries. His first solo show was in 1964.

But meanwhile the Nigerian political situation was worsening. In 1966 there was the first military coup which would be followed by the Biafran war. The events of the following years left their mark on both the man and his work.

In 1966 he had met the Duchess of St Albans who, after visiting Egonu's studio, offered him a show at her Upper Grosvenor Gallery. The exhibition included early works as well as those inspired by the Nigerian situation. He became an active campaigner and his second Grosvenor show was a benefit for victims of the Biafran war.

Egonu's exuberant colours and constructed forms defy the emotionalism so common in the depiction of tragedy in painting. He used allegory and

metaphor to discuss the intricacies and inconsistencies of the human condition and, like many Third World artists, he redefined the boundaries of modernism. He was also a very fine print maker, receiving many continental awards for his silkscreens and etchings. He was also a jury member for a 1981 Unesco-organised poster competition.

Kind, soft spoken, compassionate and very private, Egonu never gave up his deep faith in life despite losing much of his sight in the 1970s and suffering two massive heart attacks in the 1980s.

He is survived by his wife, Hiltraud, whom he married in 1971.

Flashhood Araruen

Uzo Egonu, painter and print maker, born December 28, 1931; died August 14, 1996

Brian Snape

BRIAN SNAPE, who has died aged 81, will be remembered for the vision and vitality he brought to rugby league in the 1960s and 1970s. As chairman of Salford he presided over one of the most exciting and successful periods in the club's history, bringing players such as David Watkins, Colin Dixon,

and Keith Fielding to the Willows.

Snape was also a far-seeing chairman of the Rugby Football League from 1974 to 1978. He maintained that two of his best "signings" then were David Oxley and David Howes, the sport's secretary and public relations officer, who were to be at the game's

forefront for the next two decades.

On leaving the RAF in 1946, Snape built up one of the largest cinema groups in the country, but as television expanded he moved into steak houses, restaurants and hotels. His success enabled him to indulge his sporting passion and after joining the Salford board in the 1960s he helped transform it into one of the most glamorous clubs.

It will have been a source of great satisfaction to him that a week last Sunday his promotion to the Super League.

He leaves a wife, Peggy, and two daughters.

Paul Fitzpatrick

George Brian Snape, businessman and rugby league entrepreneur, born March 3, 1915; died August 20, 1996

Jackdaw



Sing a song

IMET her 1. — 2. — I can still recall 3. — she wore; 1. outside Fresno at a truck stop in a nightmare in a gay bar 2. at McDonald's 'wrestlin' gators poppin' up sort of pregnant 3. that burlap bra the neon sign the hearing aid that creepy smile She was 4. — 5. — 4. breakin' out with acne slurrin' up linguini talkin' in Swahili smellin' kind of funny 5. but I loved her

when she shot me with her cobra with Miss Piggy and I knew 6. — 7. — I'd 8. — forever; 6. no guy would ever love her more, that she'd be an easy score, I'd never rate her more than four, I'd upchuck on the floor 7. I told her shrink I promised her A Klingon said My hamster thought 8. stay with her wrap her mind punch her out change my sex She said to me 9. — But who'd have thought she'd 10. — 9. she couldn't stand my tie her basset hound was shy our love would never die she loved my one blue eye 10. boogie run off yodel turn green 11. — 12. — goodbye. 11. with my best friend on a surfboard while in labor in my Edsel 12. I now can kiss my credit cards, and in the days of thy bridge and said: She told her

fat friend, Grace to say: She fell beneath the wheels and cried: I guess I was too smashed to say *Do-it-yourself Country* and *Western song* at www.cornel.edu/infy/people/ckline/humour

Technical lines

EXODUS And lo, as the year begins, so is the Gaffa Tape delivered unto the TECHIES, who do revere and worship the Gaffa. And, soon, does the Gaffa Tape leave the store, to be used by the TECHIES in pursuit of excellence in their techie activities, and also in various activities with fair-TECHIE maidens. And, the head TECHIES do soon become worried at the amount of Gaffa used, for while much use of Gaffa does surely lead to a higher plane of TECHIE existence, the year must be split in two: 6 months of plenty, following the delivery of Gaffa unto the TECHIES, and 6 months of famine, when the Gaffa must surely run out. Proverbs: Behold, my son here is wisdom. Pay heed to these words, and in the days of thy play, in the hours of thy per-

forming, thou shalt not be caught short. Give not unto the actor his props before his time, for as surely as the sun does rise in the East and set in the West, he will lose or break them. When told the placement of props by the Director, write not these things in ink upon thy script for as surely as the winds blow, so shall he change his mind. Speak not in large words to actors, for they are slow of thought and are easily confused. Speak not in the language of the TECHIE to those who are uninitiated, and will not perceive thy meaning.

Beware of the actors during scene changes, for they are not like unto you and are blind in the dark. Beware of actors when flying in walls, for they will startle and watch and get crushed. Listen carefully to the instructions of the Director as to how he wants things done — then do it the right way. In the days of thy work, he will see thy wisdom, give himself the credit, and rejoice.

And above all, get carried away not with the glow-tape, or thy stage will be like unto an airport.

Extracts from the Techie bible, those at the Edinburgh festival that rarely get remembered. Found at www.bath.ac.uk/00/00/the-stage/Thanks%20to%20Robin%20N.%20Moffat

Just quackery?

Mountain-air breathing THEORY: Breathing in purified, low-oxygen air makes your skin rosy, enhances brain power, boosts energy levels, improves your sex life, and, if you have eyesight, it usually improves in one go.

METHOD: Stand under a perspex bubble that looks like a large, inverted goldfish bowl. Then breathe in the special air in three-minute bursts.

Lamb-fœtus injections THEORY: You turn back the clock! The injections stimulate ageing cells to behave more like young ones. Skin tone, dexterity and hair condition are often improved.

METHOD: Swiss clinicians inject you with something called CLP extract, taken from the livers, kidneys and spleens of unborn lambs.

Toad-breath THEORY: Lose weight without

feeling hungry by doing a series of 8,000-year-old Chinese breathing exercises. Your body becomes so well balanced that you won't want to eat junk food or big meals.

METHOD: You inhale very deeply, expanding your abdomen only (like a toad, gaddit?). This massages internal organs, improves circulation and calms you down so you're less likely to fall off the dieting wagon. Oh and you follow a



carbohydrate, sugar and fat free diet.

Magnetic therapy THEORY: Magnetic waves speed circulation and stimulate nerves, "feeding" your skin and keeping you wrinkle free.

METHOD: Apply a pad attached to a power pack to "magnify" on your body. Then you feel... nothing. Your body's own magnetic "radio waves" are measured with a probe that's waved over your body. Wonky frequencies show organs that aren't functioning well and the Biocon operator uses the probe to "return" your body.

Test explores the world's weirdest (and biggest wastes of time) beauty treatments.

Newspeak

SITCOM — (Single Income Children oppressive Mortgage)

SINBAD — Single Income No Boyfriend and Desperate). It would appear that Major's classless Britain isn't so much a jet set as a debt set. Forget Filofaxes and red bras, get yourself a long-term burden.

DRUGLEGO — a chemical pursuit involving the taking of most known drugs, each one as an antidote to the other. "I was coming down off the smack, so I had some speed to get me going, an E to get me off my face, a line of coke to take the edge off it, a couple of pills to calm me down and a handful of jellies to help me get to sleep after all the peppers. Have you got any fags?"

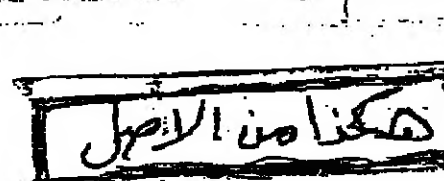
NETRO — a style or fashion which has gone out but which has not yet been the subject of a retro revival. "I really like your shell suit, it's so netro."

NETRO — referring to those things that have come out of style and will never be the subject of a retro revival, "Is that an original Sinclair CS, how netro."

Verve, with the words to be seen speaking, at www.trbgroup.co.uk

Jackdaw wants javeels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4266; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Pargollan Road, London EC1R 3ER.

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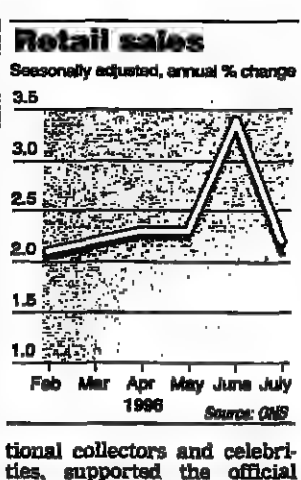
High street takes a knock

Sarah Ryle

THE GOVERNMENT was last night shrugging off a surprise July fall in high street spending, arguing that an international antiques fair was one of several exceptional factors masking a strong upward trend in consumer activity.

Although retail sales fell by 0.6 per cent in July against the Government's expectation of a 0.2 per cent rise, the Office for National Statistics pointed to the less volatile three-monthly and annual comparisons which showed retail spending was rising.

The slowdown, however, and fears of a return to a 1980s-style consumer boom. It renewed speculation that the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, would make a further 25 basis point cut in interest rates in the autumn to maintain momentum in the economy as the general election nears.



view. Sue Bond said there were signs of a return to 1980s-style confidence in the trade, with visitor numbers up 3.2 per cent on last year and more spending on big-ticket items. The ONS said anecdotal evidence from dealers supported this optimism.

Officials and City analysts were expecting July to be slightly weaker than June, but they pointed to the less volatile three-monthly index, which rose by 1.1 per cent in the three months to July and was 2.7 per cent higher than at the same time last year.

Milk Marque deal set to cut prices

Roger Coove

MLK prices may fall following concessions wrung from the milk distribution body, Milk Marque, by the Office of Fair Trading.

cautious welcome to the assurance made by Milk Marque, but said it was possible to predict the impact on milk prices once the new regime comes into effect next year.

which bids are invited will be able to fall if there is not enough demand for the available milk from the farms.

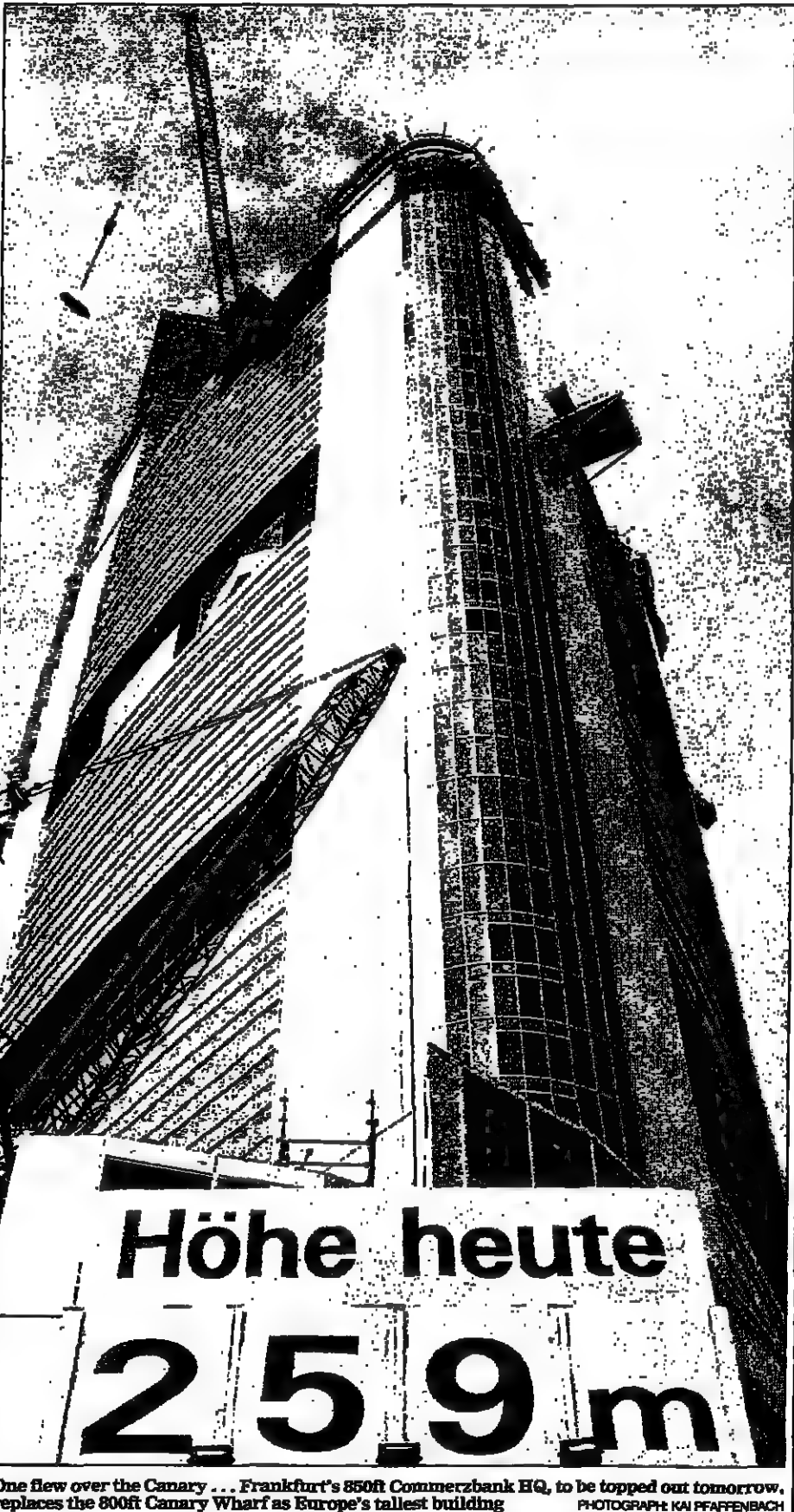
Four expelled from City as SFA cracks the whip

Dan Atkinson

THE former financial controller of Barclays Stockbrokers in Glasgow has been expelled from the City for stealing £176,535, which he frittered away on exotic holidays, home furnishings and an expensive lifestyle.

of a fourth. The expulsion blitz reflects a continuing crackdown by the SFA's enforcement arm on unauthorised and illegal activity.

remedy the position. Mr Watanabe has returned to Japan. Karin Tabet, formerly employed by Bear Stearns International, exceeded his dealing limits and hid losses and unauthorised trades by entering false deals on the computer system.



One flew over the Canary... Frankfurt's 850ft Commerzbank HQ, to be topped out tomorrow, replaces the 800ft Canary Wharf as Europe's tallest building. PHOTOGRAPH: KAI PFaffenBACH

Corruption rising in the boardroom

Directors proved unfit rise by 83pc, reports Sarah Whitebloom

CORPORATE misconduct is booming in Britain's boardrooms, according to Department of Trade and Industry figures published yesterday. They revealed an 83 per cent rise in the number of directors disqualified for unfit conduct in the second quarter of 1996 compared with the same period last year.

John Taylor, the corporate affairs minister, said: "The Insolvency Service is on a mission to rid the business world of unfit directors. The latest figures show that corporate misconduct is being crushed."

DTI casebook

- 1 May: Matthews & Yates, Colchester ventilation firm, two directors disqualified for total of 12 years. Alleged: Failing to account for cash withdrawals.
- 7 May: Provincial & City Properties, Manchester, two directors struck off for total of nine years. Alleged: Misappropriating company assets, excessive benefits and loans to directors.
- 9 May: Anthony Copping of A Copping Technical Systems (Communications), Kent larger alarm firm, disqualified for nine years. Alleged: Trading without reasonable prospect of success.
- 10 June: Vogue Leisure (St Annas), public house/restaurants business. Two directors disqualified for total of 21 years. Alleged: Controlling company while an undischarged bankrupt and misuse of bank account.
- 2 July: Two directors of County Security, a Birmingham area provider of security guards, barred for total of 18 years. Alleged: Allowing company to trade without reasonable prospect of paying creditors.

Miss the bus and then get caught by a whiff of lemon up your nose

Dan Atkinson sniffs out a fresh piece of promotion — the olfactory offensive

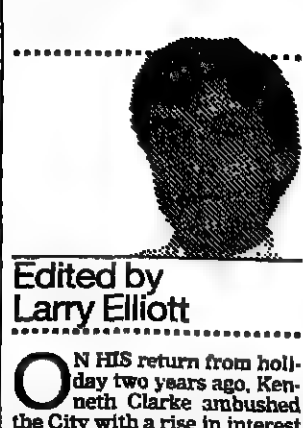
PICK ANY stage in the collapse of civilisation and you'll find it marked by another advance of the advertising and marketing industry.

started to be urged by speaking displays to "indulge your loved one with a can of new Spillers Purfect but, remember, it is just for cats".

More menacingly for Del Monte, an age in which even solicitors are allowed to advertise is an age in which some bus passenger, somewhere, will hire a lawyer and claim enormous damages for alleged respiratory distress or "wilful traumatisation" caused by "secondary consumption" of Citrus Twist.

Notebook

Ken may take the rise out of Eddie



Edited by Larry Elliott

ON HIS return from holiday two years ago, Kenneth Clarke ambushed the City with a rise in interest rates, justifying the move as a pre-emptive strike against inflation.

would delay the promise of that pay-out. Labour only stands to lose from Ms Spottiswoode's planned crackdown on profits since this would leave British Gas better placed to argue that it should be excluded from a windfall tax.

Mutual friends

IMAGINE the fuss if a bank announced a 21 per cent fall in pre-tax profits on the basis that it is too expensive to be nearer to its customers. The share price would plummet, there would be a boardroom shake-up, jobs would go.

Compare that generosity with the cynicism displayed by those mutuals planning to convert into quoted companies. Here, the quest for higher profitability and a good old-fashioned investor greed has meant a bad deal for savers, who are enjoying (if that's the right word) miserable real post-tax interest rates.

Labour in a spot

CONSUMERS and investors are not the only people with a vested interest in the outcome of the clash between British Gas and watchdog Clare Spottiswoode. Politicians have as much to win or lose.

As a result, savings rates can be cut with impunity, boosting profitability, while societies can boast that deposits are still going up.

News in brief

French firm to run trains

Commuters were promised a record £400 million investment in new rolling stock yesterday when a French company, CGEA, won a 15-year franchise to operate the South East Train Company between London, the Kent coast and parts of Sussex.

Carla Stovall, has launched legal action to stop tobacco groups inciting B&T, RJR Nabisco and Philip Morris marketing to children.

Polygram swoops
Polygram, the music and film group, yesterday bought the 51 per cent of GoldDisc record label it did not already own. No price was disclosed for the purchase.

Dispute cost

Mersey Docks and Harbour Board said yesterday that the bitter dispute with dockers it sacked last year had cost it only £200,000. Half-year pre-tax profits fell to £12.2 million from £16.8 million.

Hutchings paid £1.2m
Greg Hutchings, chief executive of the conglomerate Tomkins, was paid just over £1.2 million last year. He was also granted options over 1.8 million shares, yielding an immediate profit of £550,000.

Tobacco action

The Kansas attorney general TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.850	France 7.595	Italy 2.300	Singapore 2.13
Austria 15.59	Germany 2.2325	Malta 0.5370	South Africa 0.8
Belgium 45.91	Greece 359.50	Netherlands 2.5075	Spain 168.50
Canada 2.0700	Hong Kong 11.05	New Zealand 2.1775	Sweden 10.05
Cyprus 0.88	India 55.06	Norway 9.95	Switzerland 1.7675
Denmark 8.6575	Ireland 0.9350	Portugal 226.75	Turkey 127.610
Finland 6.9375	Israel 4.86	Saudi Arabia 5.77	USA 1.5100

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

Clare Spottiswoode of Ofgas has refused to be deflected by the industry's frantic propaganda campaign. **Chris Barrie** reports

British Gas loses bills battle with regulator

AN UNPRECEDENTED lobbying campaign by British Gas failed to prevent industry watchdog Clare Spottiswoode from yesterday carrying out her threat to cut almost £30 off the average annual household bill.

The price review by Ofgas has highlighted how battles between regulators and regulated are increasingly being fought in the public domain. Just over a year ago BG was humiliated when more than 4,000 shareholders attended its annual general meeting and rebelled openly against huge pay rises for top directors.

But, faced with the "smash and grab" tactics of Ms Spottiswoode three months ago, BG turned for help to these former adversaries and lobbied shareholders to join the campaign to water down Ofgas's proposals.

Some 35,000 shareholders supported BG's case by writing to Ofgas demanding changes to the price controls planned for BG's highly profitable transportation business, TransCo.

It is likely many of them were alarmed by the slump in the BG share price. When Ms Spottiswoode first announced her plans for TransCo, £1.3 billion — 13 per cent of its worth — was wiped off the value of BG shares within hours.

BG also briefed institutional investors, some of whom went to see Ofgas officials as a result. And the company launched a vigorous lobbying campaign of a more conventional kind. Apart from briefing politicians and agencies, BG explained to its suppliers the implications of what it felt were savage price controls.

And it made sure that trade unions knew that thousands of jobs would be axed if TransCo were forced to squeeze costs as fast and as far as Ofgas claimed was possible. BG is not alone in finding

that its regulator is evolving into a more formidable opponent. A senior BG manager said yesterday that, while the campaign had mobilised support, it was a "moot point" how successful it had been in winning tangible results. Unfortunately the company had not won many concessions from Ms Spottiswoode.

Like the electricity industry watchdog, Professor Stephen Littlechild, Ms Spottiswoode has used outside consultants to buttress her inquiry and conclusions. BG found it was fighting a regulatory battle that involved not only hot words, but detailed accounting practice as well.

Ms Spottiswoode is not a regulator to fight shy of a public battle and yesterday she remarked pointedly that BG had won little support from customers in its lobbying campaign.

But she acknowledged that she had been surprised by the "huge amount of response" to her original proposals and, as a result, had modified them. She was equally at pains to emphasise that she was being "fair" to shareholders, and talked a lot of "compromise".

Dismissing the "barrage of stories" put up by regulated industries during a price review, Ms Spottiswoode said BG would be better advised to concentrate on convincing her, her office and, ultimately, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission of its case.

On that score, at least, she and BG deputy chairman Philip Rogerson will be at one from now on. The company admits that the time for shareholder lobbying is now over and that talks will determine whether her proposals really are final.



No meeting of minds... Regulator Clare Spottiswoode and British Gas's unhappy deputy chairman, Philip Rogerson

PHOTOGRAPHS: DAVID SALLITOE and TOM JENNINS

No stranger to controversy

CLARE Spottiswoode, born in Lancashire in 1953, has gained a reputation for charm, ambition and determination as director general of Ofgas. A former Treasury civil servant, she was educated at Cheltenham Ladies College and Clare College, Cambridge, where she read economics.

Unlike her fellow regulators, Ms Spottiswoode has shown little reluctance to speak out. She demanded a salary rise at the height of the controversy about pay and perks for British Gas directors, suggested BG might be in financial difficulties over take-or-pay contracts, and had to deny having an affair with a Whitehall official who recommended her appointment.

Pressure is on for gas deputy

PHILIP Rogerson may prove to be the most important deputy chairman that British Gas has ever had. The former finance director, competitive and methodical, faces the onerous task of defending a company synonymous in the public mind with corporate excess.

Mr Rogerson, 51, was educated at William Hulme Grammar School, Manchester, started work at ICI and joined ICI in 1978. Since joining British Gas four years ago, he has been responsible for the TransCo transmission business and is leading the plan to demerge trading business next year.

Mr Rogerson is described as ambitious, at times secretive, but unpretentious. All are qualities needed when "managing" the regulator.



Neighbour's low-rent lure heightens recovery tension

PATCHWORK PROGRESS/ Crossing the Tamar marks 'economic cliff' that splits South-west and undermines attempts to attract investment, writes Geoffrey Gibbs

GLOSSY brochures from the Development Board for Rural Wales, sent to more than 1,700 businesses in the west of England attempting to lure them with the offer of low-rent factories, have reawakened fears in the South-west of being left behind in the current economic recovery.

They provoked consternation among local authorities in the region already worried by the success of the Welsh in winning inward investment and brought a swift "hands off" warning from the housing minister, David Curry, the recently appointed minister for the South-west and Wiltshire.

In a stinging rebuke to the DBRW the minister made it clear that economic develop-

ment organisations should not be encouraging jobs and industry to move within the UK but joining in a national effort to bring overseas investment to Britain.

His strictures underscored the findings of a recent report by the Confederation of British Industry's Bristol office that showed the South-west lagging behind all regions of the UK other than East Anglia in terms of the number of jobs created or safeguarded by inward investment.

Statistically, the region comprises the five counties of Avon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire together with Devon and Cornwall.

Taken as a whole, it is one

of the most prosperous regions in the country and has, according to CBI figures, consistently outperformed the UK's average growth rate over the past 15 years.

The largest English region geographically, it accounts for 8.3 per cent of UK employment and 7.8 per cent of GDP. But it is a region with varied needs and vastly different shades of economic performance.

A report from the Plymouth Business School this summer highlighted a picture of gradual decline in economic prosperity that emerges the further south and west one travels.

Whereas Wiltshire has a GDP per head well above the national average, Cornwall

lags almost 40 percentage points behind the region's most easterly county with a GDP only 71.8 per cent of the national figure.

Crossing the Tamar say the Plymouth academics is almost like falling off an economic cliff.

Many argue that, as a region, the "South-west" is an artificial grouping. Cornish business leaders, for example, feel the county has little in common with Gloucestershire.

The CBI points out that, unlike other European regions, the South-west economy has not been formed by a dependence on a single industry. While the industrial mix is a source of strength in times of recession it has not helped produce the clear regional identity that is essential if the region is to be marketed effectively.

There are, however, signs of change. Mr Curry's appointment should ensure the region's voice is heard in Whitehall, if not in Brussels. And a West of England Development Agency has been established under the auspices of the Department of Trade and Industry's Invest in Britain Bureau to co-ordinate the inward investment plans of the more affluent easterly counties.

Even there, post-cold war retrenchment in the defence sector and recession-induced shedding of labour by service sector companies has concentrated minds on the need to woo outside investors to the English side of the two Severn crossings.

To the west — where the decline of the mainstay fish-

ing and tin mining industries has led to more deep seated structural problems — the task of attracting outside investment has been handled for more than a decade by Devon and Cornwall Development International which has successfully targeted companies in the healthcare, medical products and electronics industries.

Ken Martin, the DCDI chief executive, is under no illusions about the special problems facing Devon and Cornwall, large parts of which

qualify for assisted area status. The two counties are already home to a number of overseas-owned companies. Toshiba, Wrigleys and Nortel are all well established in the region and even South Croft, the last working tin mining business in Canadian controlled, But Mr Martin says there is a need to overcome the perception of the peripheral nature of this sub-region in order to continue attracting inward investors.

Tomorrow the West Midlands



Underside

Dan Atkinson

ROTTEN times on both sides of the Atlantic for Bear Stearns, the investment bank. Over here, former trader Karim Taber has been hooded out of the City for a spot of rogue trading (exceeding dealing limits, entering ghost trades into the system and other Leesonia) while over there scurrilous suggestions in the gay press that a top Bear has been exploring his sexuality in the most alarming manner has caused more than a little fluttering in the dovecoats. Dull it ain't.

POSTSCRIPT to our August 1 item reporting that the magazine SuperMarketing had devoted an entire issue to down-scale, nay basso profundo, supermarket group Somerfield, in which the company's chief executive, David Simons, became "guest editor" for the edition. Somerfield has now limped to the stock market and was last seen trading at 150p, against initial hopes of a 180-190p float price, and SuperMarketing, in true independent style, has marked the occasion: "Sommerfield shares enjoy up-beat start". It crills in its latest issue. "Sommerfield thumbed its nose at critics." Don't ever change.

DOING business in Mexico? Then don't miss the state of Oaxaca whose "Zapototec Indian women" provide the "notable exception" to the country's trad division of labour between chaps, who pull the ox-cart, and ladies, who run the household. McGraw-Hill's Passport to Mexico — a pocket-book packed with edgewise info aimed at saving businessmen from losing deals through cultural faux pas — declares that Zapotecettes

"play a dominant rôle in both local politics and the local economy" and are famous for "loving to dance and for being open about their sexual appetites". Filtration, Zapotec style, would seem to involve climbing church roofs and bell-towers during fiesta time and petting the men and boys below with *liver oil*, bananas, pineapples and coconuts. "a tradition known as *Tiradas de Frigor*". McGraw-Hill is planning 23 such guides including ones on Japan (don't hug your host), Argentina (don't give tips), Sweden (don't sip your wine before breakfast) and Switzerland (don't send red roses). We'll stick with Oaxaca, thanks.

UE-EUH, I know what you're thinking. Did he cut six blades of grass or was it only five? Britain's very own Tomkins combine is understandably reserved in its annual report about its Smith & Wesson subsidiary, producer of "the most powerful handgun in the world". The at-a-glance guide at the front buries the Magnum-maker in a section headed "professional, garden & leisure products" with a pic of a lawnmower. In the detailed breakdown, S&W's hand-cuffs make a photo, but there's not a lot about shooters. Do I feel reticent? Well, do you punk?

AFINAL word on those don't-put-your-foot-in-it business guides from McGraw-Hill: some years ago, visitors to Japan were warned never, ever like never — blow your nose in public while in the land of the rising sun. On-the-respondent suffering chronic sinus difficulties proved conclusively that this was a load of old sush. The unworthy thought arises that all these cross-cultural gaffes have been invented by the publishers of gaffe-avoidance manuals.

Amsterdam

Smart Class not Club Class

£35

easyJet

USAir steps up campaign

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

USAIR last night stepped up its campaign against the proposed merger between British Airways and American Airlines by applying to operate from four US cities direct to Heathrow.

BA's unhappy American partner, which has already filed a lawsuit strongly opposing the merger, said it had applied to the US Department of Transportation for permission to serve Heathrow from Boston, Charlotte, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

The airline, in which BA has a 34.8 per cent stake, cited the need for competition in

the US-UK market in view of the proposed alliance between BA and AA. It said it would provide the only US flag competition in each of the four cities, which otherwise would be dominated by the services provided by BA and AA.

USAir's move puts increased pressure on the BA-AA merger. Two weeks ago it appeared a *fait accompli* after strong support from the Transport Secretary, Sir George Young, and the backing of the all-party Commons transport select committee, and muted opposition from other American airlines.

Now the outcome is not so straightforward. The Office of Fair Trading is to tell the Trade and Industry Secretary, Ian Lang, that the all-

ance constitutes a merger and that there is a case to refer it to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. This will lead to a split in the Cabinet on how to respond.

USAir said it strongly supported the US government's efforts to secure an "open skies" agreement with the UK. But it stressed that this kind of deal required a market structure in which it and other US airlines could compete from their hub cities to Heathrow.

In the application, USAir said it believed it was uniquely situated because of its route network to give consumers an effective choice on schedules, prices and levels of service between almost 200 US cities and the UK.

"Keep off my moon. So says German pensioner Martin Juergens as, apparently, the moon has been in his family since 1756, when King Frederick II kindly passed it on to one of his ancestors."

SEE BACK PAGE →

مكتبة القرآن

Racing

Dettori hits out at bans system

Chris Hawkins reports on a day of mixed fortunes for Britain's champion jockey

F RANKIE DETTORI slipped off his cloud, but only temporarily, at York yesterday when handed a four-day suspension (starting August 30) for irresponsible riding.

Dettori finished third on Russian Snows behind the winner Key Change in the Aston Upthorpe Yorkshire Oaks, but was judged to have nudged Whitewater Affair on his way through.

It was a definite manoeuvre and under the strict letter of the law Dettori is not guilty, but the champion jockey is not happy with the decision and is considering an appeal.

"I'll have a look at the tape and decide whether it's worth appealing," he said. "I've got to think about it because the totting-up system I could be off for two weeks eventually."

"This four days would mean I'm up to eight for irresponsible riding, and if I get to 12 then another offence, I'm automatically off for a fortnight."

"We're the only country in the world that's got this totting-up system and I think it's wrong - each case should be judged on its merits."

Dettori, as can be seen, is not loth to express an opinion these days something no doubt born of supreme self-confidence and a willingness to be judged on his merits.

the line - that in itself being a masterly effort from Lynch, who has never known one of his governors Reg Hollinshead not to win too far.

Michael Stoute, the winning trainer, was delighted with Lynch, having first met him at Epsom during the Scottish Equitable Gramcrack Stakes on About Zouz - another big two-year-old winner for David Loder.

Abou Zouz had disappointed Loder badly at Kempton in May and was given a long rest, but he came back to his best here and got the best of Compton Place and The West in a war of attrition.

"He'll probably go over seven furlongs next time, whereas I've got Bahamian Bounty (Sunday's Prix Moray winner) for the Middle Park," said Loder.

One day Fergal Lynch could be lording it like Dettori and the 19-year-old apprentice won the biggest race of his fledgling career when carrying home on Clerkenwell in the Totu Ebor.

This is supposed to be one of the season's tightest handicaps, but Clerkenwell turned it into an embarrassing procession for the man who compiled the weights.

Lynch let Clerkenwell go approaching the two-furlong mark and from then on it was just a question of who would be second.

The answer was Beauharnois, who cut Clerkenwell's winning margin to three-quarters of a length at the line.



Lynch party... Fergal Lynch brings Clerkenwell (right) home ahead of Beauharnois Jade in yesterday's Ebor

Berry plays Mind Games

MIND GAMES, odd-on but only sixth in last year's Nunthorpe Stakes, may this year finally achieve Jack Berry's ambition of training a group one winner at York, writes Chris Hawkins.

By no stretch of the imagination could this year's Nunthorpe be described as a vintage contest and, apart from the French ace Anabaa, there seems to be a dearth of top class sprinters these days.

Connections of Hever Golf Rose, who won last year's Prix de l'Abbaye, may resent this remark, but their filly has not managed to win in seven attempts this season.

She was fourth in the King's Stand Stakes at Royal Ascot and has nearly six lengths to make up on the winner, Pivotal.

Racing on the favoured stands rails on that occasion, Pivotal got up to beat Mind Games, on the opposite side, by half a length and is not guaranteed to confirm the form here.

Mind Games (3.10) seemed to find the stiff Ascot five furlongs too long for him and will be suited by today's flatter track.

Caroline Lake (2.55) is taken to confirm the favourable impression she made in Goodwood's Molecomb Stakes. She produced a good turn of foot at the end of that sharp five furlongs and is bred to be better over this six.

York runners and riders with form guide

Table listing York runners and riders with form guide, including names like 2.08 Ezzadim, 2.35 CARMINE LANE, and 3.10 MIND GAMES.

Table listing York runners and riders with form guide, including names like 2.35 STAKES GRADER, 3.10 MIND GAMES, and 3.45 BRADFORD.

Table listing York runners and riders with form guide, including names like 3.10 MIND GAMES, 3.45 BRADFORD, and 4.15 LADRON.

Table listing York runners and riders with form guide, including names like 3.45 BRADFORD, 4.15 LADRON, and 4.45 BURNING.

Table listing York runners and riders with form guide, including names like 4.15 LADRON, 4.45 BURNING, and 5.15 BRUNTON.

Table listing York runners and riders with form guide, including names like 5.15 BRUNTON, 5.45 BURNING, and 6.15 BURNING.

Yarmouth

Table listing Yarmouth runners and riders with form guide, including names like 2.20 LA Youth, 2.50 Sky Commander, and 3.25 Sarcosaurus.

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Salisbury tonight

Table listing Salisbury runners and riders with form guide, including names like 5.20 Dorian, 6.00 Another Night, and 6.50 Star Talent.

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Cartmel (N.H.) tonight

Table listing Cartmel (N.H.) runners and riders with form guide, including names like 6.45 Shrewsbury, 7.15 Shrewsbury, and 7.45 Shrewsbury.

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Results

Table listing racing results for various events, including names like 2.08 Ezzadim, 2.35 CARMINE LANE, and 3.10 MIND GAMES.

EXETER

Table listing racing results for Exeter, including names like 2.15 (8-1) S. BELLAKEY, 2.30 (10-1) S. BELLAKEY, and 2.45 (10-1) S. BELLAKEY.

RACELINE 0930 168+ advertisement with logo and contact information.

Soccer

Beckham in the frame for call-up

David Lacey sees problems in defence as England coach looks for continuity

DAVID BECKHAM's spectacular garrulousness of a goal last Saturday may well have secured the 19-year-old Manchester United midfielder a place in Glenn Hoddle's first England squad...

Tony Adams, who led England to the semi-finals in Euro 96, has had another knee operation, and Graeme Le Saux, the obvious choice for left wing-back, is still not ready after a long lay-off...

Hoddle can pick Gary and Phil Neville knowing that the young Manchester United pair are able to fill a variety of defensive roles, and Gareth Southgate's lack of pace was exposed in June...

Gary Fallisner, who missed the European Championship with a back problem, looks a better option than another absentee, Mark Wright, but the defensive talent is still thinly spread.



Unfamiliar territory... Shearer has trouble finding his early bearings on his home debut, with the Dons' defence looking similarly scatty

Premiership: Newcastle United 2, Wimbledon 0

Shearer makes himself at home

NEWCASTLE fans were in for a low-key affair in whatever emotion happens to grip them at any given time. Last night, after the hype of Alan Shearer's £15 million signing...

about Kevin Keegan's side. That may sound harsh, as Newcastle had a multitude of opportunities, but there were several questions about the back four...

football by dropping Hlop, Berezford and Gillespie from Saturday, bringing in Snicek, Elliott and Aspinall. Shearer was playing in front of the home fans for the first time...

early and Newcastle only career forward as of old. Watson, Barry and Lee sat fasted, shearer narrowly wide and Shearer sent a Cholo cross on the full but sent it just over.

There was little product, however, and Hoddle's worth was often seen with head in hands. Shearer must have felt the same when he smacked the ball past Snicek only to see the top of the bar.

Premiership: Man Utd 2, Everton 2

Cruyff wakes up champions

UNCAN Ferguson, who did so much to wreck Manchester United's start of the season on Saturday, continued his destructive ways at Old Trafford last night. The Scottish striker undermined United on the ground and in the air, scoring twice in a five-minute spell in the first half.

It was a clinical example of finishing for United, who had created the better chances to that point but had been unable to take them. Cruyff missed one of them but managed to make up for it with a superb headed goal 20 minutes from time, and then in the 82nd minute United equalised when Unsworth turned Irwin's shot into his own net.

West Ham 1, Coventry 1

West Ham parry Big Ron's rocket

COVENTRY's expensive expenditure assembled side finally succumbed to pressure on the pound last night when a second-half pummeling by West Ham claimed a point after the Sky Blues had taken an early lead.

Not acceptable was the Coventry chairman Bryan Richardson's verdict after Saturday's opening 3-0 defeat at home to Nottingham Forest. After spending £18 million in the 17 months since Ron Atkinson became manager in the air, he was expecting more than yet another struggle with relegation last season and a thumping in the first game this.

Aston Villa 1, Blackburn 0

Rovers unhinged by Southgate

GARETH SOUTHGATE was the star of the night after his West Ham nightmare in Euro 96 to secure Villa's first Premiership points of the season with a spectacular winner.

His 64th-minute thunderbolt sends Blackburn into Sunday's derby with Manchester United, fearing their season is in danger of being undermined by post-Shearer syndrome as they fired blanks.

PFA pessimistic on money talks

PFA pessimistic on money talks

THE PFA chief executive Gordon Taylor yesterday conceded that he was pessimistic about reaching agreement tomorrow with the Football League over its allocation of money in the union from the Sky television deal.

Strike ballot-papers have already been printed and will be sent to some 2,500 PFA members next week if the talks in Manchester fail.

BBC MATCH OF THE DAY THE NEW WEEKLY MAGAZINE ONLY 61 'the first' ON SALE EVERY THURSDAY

Results table for Soccer, FA Cup, Rugby League, Tennis, and Athletics.

Fixtures table for Soccer, FA Cup, Rugby League, Tennis, and Athletics.

Fixtures table for Cricket, Soccer, and Rugby League.

England v Pa Eng H

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

Cricket

England v Pakistan: third Comhill Test

England picadors need a matador

Paul Weaver
HIGH UP at The Oval there is a media eye, and once a puff-blow back has recovered his breath he can feel like an emperor.
Yesterday Union Flags and flags of St George fluttered jauntily in the breeze, and the House of Parliament, Gothic and preening, could just be seen as well as the austere M16 building. There was jingoism in the rarefied air and it felt tempting to give the 16th people below an earful of Henry V. Perhaps the England coach David Lloyd should take his players up there.



Every pitch tells a story... the Pakistanis get a feel of The Oval turf yesterday; England are hoping for a pacy track

hope to bat first so that Alec Stewart can open the innings. Pakistan's captain Wasim Akram and a match-winning leg-spinner, Mushtaq Ahmed. Against those, England have seamers who resemble a bunch of picadors looking for a matador, and Ian Salisbury, despite his improved century, has yet to prove his case at this level.

that Wasim would be the more dangerous. He has taken only five wickets in this series but is six away from becoming the 11th bowler to reach 300.
"I hope I can take care of that in the first innings," he said. "I have been getting wickets in the county games. I didn't play in the last game because of a side strain but I'm okay now. I'm hoping tomorrow will be my day."

so that he can remind them of those before the game. "I did it at Lancashire years ago. Self-expression is important. And it's important not to dwell on what you can't do." It can only be hoped that not too many were left sucking their pencils and staring at a blank piece of paper.

months for taking cocaine, cannot play for a county or minor county but is eligible for club cricket and could return to Eastbourne in the Sussex League.

the fixture would be an all-out 500-ball-out. John O'Neill, the ARFU chief executive, will now try to persuade the RFU to open talks with the Barbarians about giving England pride of place on December 7. But yesterday RFU sources were far from sure that the Barbarians should be leaned on to give up their prestige fixture.

Championship Somerset v Durham

Rose blights Durham but Cox bites back
SOMERSET'S veteran all-rounder Graham Rose had his second wicket return of the season on an entertaining first day of their match at Weston-super-Mare which saw almost 400 runs scored.

Golf Seve fires Ryder Cup warning

Michael Brittan in Stuttgart
SEVERIANO Ballesteros has an uncompromising message for Europe's top players on the eve of the Volvo German Open here at Nippenburg yesterday. It amounted to a demand that all of them, the United States-backed Nick Faldo included, make a major effort to qualify for the 1997 Ryder Cup at Valderrama when the programme starts next week.

David Davies on the belated return of the South African who is no longer a forty-niner

ON SATURDAY August 17, Hugh Baiocchi blinked awake and thought: "I'd better be careful getting out of bed. At my age I might strain something."

Baiocchi pans for old gold

much money in his first full year there as he did in his entire career on the regular European Tour.

Paralympics Wiscombe's emotional gold

Richard Redden in Atlanta
THE first medal for competitors with learning disabilities went to Britain's Tracy Wiscombe, who took the 100 metres freestyle gold in a world-record time of 53.15sec.

Evening Racing Hereford

HEREFORD
5.40 (2m 17p) 1. CHERRY BELL, 2. J. Murphy (2-1), 3. Sceptical Blue (2-1), 4. Lord Thomas (2-1), 5. Dan. 5. 15. (P. Bailey) Tot: 23.50, 1st 4.00, 2nd 2.50, 3rd 2.00, 4th 1.50, 5th 1.00.

Sport in brief

Cycling Graeme Obree will not defend his world track title in Manchester next week, on medical advice. The Scot, who retained his 4,000 metres pursuit title last year, has a viral infection. He hopes to return for October's world time-trial championship in Lugano.

Athletics Thanks to "a great sponsor"

Primo Nebido did not name a bonus of \$100,000 (\$85,000) will be paid to any world record breaker at next year's world championships in Athens, the IAAF president said yesterday.

Chess Yastmil Hort beat Zsuzsa Polgar quickly as the veteran

former world champions and candidates scored a 2-2 fifth-round victory over the world's best female players in their annual challenge match at the London Hilton, writes Leonard Barden.

Snooker

Twice in 24 hours the wayward former world champion Alex Higgins has scratched from world-ranking events because he objected to the referees. It happened yesterday in a qualifying round of the British Open at Blackpool, which was to be refereed by the experienced John Williams, and the previous day at a Thailand Open match to be refereed by Lawrence Annandale.

Swimming

Beverley Whitfield, Australia's Olympic 200 metres breaststroke champion in Munich, was found dead at her home at Wollongong near Sydney yesterday. She was 42.

Rugby Union

England bag a Wallaby series coup

England bag a Wallaby series coup

Robert Armstrong
ENGLAND will play Australia twice a season for the next seven years, on a home and away basis in July and November, as a result of an historic agreement which sets up the first series of annual Tests between nations from the northern and the southern hemispheres.

the fixture would be an all-out 500-ball-out. John O'Neill, the ARFU chief executive, will now try to persuade the RFU to open talks with the Barbarians about giving England pride of place on December 7. But yesterday RFU sources were far from sure that the Barbarians should be leaned on to give up their prestige fixture.

Scotland make Hastie decision

SCOTLAND have appointed the 61-year-old Arthur Hastie as team manager in succession to Jim Telfer, who stood down to concentrate on his duties as the SRU's salaried director of rugby.

Tennis Injured Becker misses US Open

BORIS BECKER, the Australian Open champion, has withdrawn from next week's US Open at Flushing Meadows. The German world No. 5 is still suffering from the wrist injury he sustained at Wimbledon.

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High-flying Dettori hit with ban, page 13
Wallabies set up England series, page 15

Hoddle looks to his defence, page 14
Ballesteros warns Ryder veterans, page 15

SportsGuardian

CHELSEA'S LESS HERALDED ITALIAN HAS THE BEATING OF 'BORO

Premiership: Chelsea 1, Middlesbrough 0

Blues welcome Di Matteo

David Lacey

GIANLUCA VIALLI must be wondering when he is going to meet one of those weak and naive defences which are supposed to abound in the English game.

Having been denied a goal at Southampton on Sunday, Chelsea's Italian striker ran into some solid Middlesbrough resistance at Stamford Bridge last night.

Not that Fabrizio Ravanelli, Vialli's erstwhile partner in the Juventus attack, found life any easier against Chelsea's new French sweeper Franck Leboeuf. As a result, a match which flowed evenly and imaginatively in midfield struggled to produce a goal at either end until Roberto Di Matteo put Chelsea ahead five minutes from the end with a low, skidding shot from 25 yards.

Chelsea's 5-0 home win against Middlesbrough in February seemed rather more than six months distant last night as Italians, Brazilians, a Frenchman and a Romanian turned London SW6 into the Premiership's Latin quarter.

Middlesbrough were now better equipped to trade goals after the signing of Ravanelli. For Chelsea goals remained a matter of theory following the scoreless draw away to Southampton.

They had already seen the difference a genuine sweeper, Leboeuf, could make to the tempo and pattern of their football. Now Stamford Bridge awaited Vialli's response to Ravanelli's instant hat-trick against Liverpool.

However it was Chelsea's other Italian signing, Di Matteo, who initially caught the eye. With each team employing five in midfield, players who could bring the ball out of the crowd and use it constructively were always going to be influential, as Di Matteo soon demonstrated.



Spark into life... Mark Hughes of Chelsea directs the play at Stamford Bridge last night as Neil Cox settles for a hit part

PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BAPTON

The match was less than a minute old when he began a move with Wise and Vialli which he then carried on himself before producing a cross which Middlesbrough were glad to clear.

Then after 20 minutes a finely angled through-pass from Di Matteo was designed to send Vialli clear of Pearson and would have done had the Middlesbrough defender not dragged his man down. A yellow card followed; 10 yards

instigated an attack which saw Hughes, Petrescu, and Vialli work the ball out to Wise on the right. As Wise's cross dipped into the goal-mouth Di Matteo was there with a shot which Miller tipped over the bar.

Ravanelli's first real opportunity arrived 11 minutes before half-time. Having recovered from a painful encounter with Di Matteo, he found himself clear and outside after Whyte's long pass had caught Chelsea on the break. A goal seemed likely as Ravanelli bore down on Kharina, but he dragged his shot wide.

Vialli brought the crowd to its feet soon afterwards when he flicked up Petrescu's centre to the far post before volleying the ball into the side netting. With Barmby putting Di Matteo to tackle the little Brazilian as he was about to shoot, the football remained rich in attacking flair.

Norfolk and Devon major in the minors



Frank Keating

A PALPITATING last day of Minor Counties cricket, in which Norfolk crossed the land as if by bush telegraph, ended last night with mobile phones finally being laid in their silent scabbards as the respective regional champions emerged as Devon and Norfolk, who will meet on September 8-9.

In the west, Devon beat Cornwall by 46 runs at Truro while Hereford, the upstart front runners all summer, fell at the last against Wales by three wickets. In the east, Norfolk lost to Suffolk by 10 runs at Mildenhall yet had just enough points in the bag to thwart a charge by Buckinghamshire and Cambridgeshire.

Yesterday's eastern dash for the wire featured three of the competition's most stalwart counties down the century. Norfolk won the inaugural winners 101 years ago, Buckinghamshire were seeking their 20th title yesterday, and Cambridgeshire have particularly been a force in recent years by reaching six finals since 1987.

So it was the western region's grand finale yesterday to which romantics tuned. The fine journalist and sometime good Somerset opener Peter Roebuck has led Devon with his challenging mixture of cerebral cunning and hard-nosed nous to two successive outright titles, and was looking yesterday to present his adopted county with their fifth trophy in five years.

Herefordshire were elected a Minor County only on Durham's elevation in 1993, since when, in spite of comforting fanfares each springtime, Durham have been hand-wringing mums and are dolefully expecting a fourth wooden spoon in five seasons in the big time. Meanwhile the unconsidered Minor County on the Welsh Borders have in their turn made their curtsy with a strikingly precocious ascent, qualifying for the NatWest in 1994, reaching the Lord's final last summer, and dancing a merry jig through 1995, unbeaten until yesterday.

Significantly, yesterday's fulminating conclusions were designed for the first time to reach a simultaneous finish. This prevented any "you-

scratch-my-back" fiddling of bonus points in the annual scrap not only for regional honours but for the chance to qualify for next season's NatWest Trophy.

Regional triumph, and now on course for a third overall clean-sweep title, I suppose makes Roebuck - Oxford-born with a Cantab first - Devon's most celebrated cricketer since umpire emeritus David Shepherd. Herefordshire folk, meanwhile, will remind you that the rosy-red cathedral's C.I. Thornton was born at Llanwrn. Jack Sharp scored a double century for Herefordshire against Leicestershire and was taken up by Lancashire (as well as Everton and England as a footballer) and scored a century for England against Australia in 1959 at The Oval but was never picked again.

This morning at The Oval as well, some real old-timers from Hereford will be thinking of another son born under the rosy-red cathedral's shadow: Reg Parks, who was picked for just one home Test in England, at Kennington in 1939, when he took five wickets in West Indies' only innings, and likewise was never picked again.

REG was one of John Arlott's best friends. The weekend before that one appearance beneath the gasometers, Arlott played a benefit match for Parks at Much Marcle, near Ledbury. He borrowed Reg's bat and broke it, John said, hitting the only six of his life.

In return Arlott made Parks immortal with the opening verse of one of his most enduring poems, Cricket at Worcester.

*Dazing in deck-chair's gentle curve,
Through half-closed eyes I
watched the cathedral's
knobbing the sporting press
would say
'Parks bowled well on a perfect
wicket'.
Typically for this very
morning, another Herefordshire
cricketing man, whose
family ancestors are still stalwarts
of Ledbury CC, also
began an epic poem at The
Oval before the Ashes match
of 1992, the Poet Laureate John
Massfield no less.
Though wayward Time be
changeful as Man's will,
We have the game, we have
The Oval still,
And still the gas-works mark
the gas-works end,
And still our sun shines and
the rats descend.
Not the latter, one hopes.
And Hereford might not have
won, but they made their
mark all right in 1996.*

BECKSENTRICS

EURO STAR OF THE WEEK

SAFARI PARKING

An elephant is not just for Christmas, it is for popping down to the pub to buy an animal trainee Marcus Baccetti often scoots into town on Maria - his trusty elephant. But Maria is not quite the pitifully conventional means of transport. Having left her outside a bar in Naples, Baccetti returned to find a parking ticket stuck to the elephant's side.

THE LUNACY

Keep off my moon. So says German prisoner Martin Juergens as apparently, the moon has been in his family since 1756, when King Frederick II kindly passed it on to one of his ancestors. Juergens now plans to sue the Russians and the Americans for trespassing on his property.

BLIND FAITH

Jose Pinto had been driving the seven miles to work in downtown Madrid, but three years before the police stopped and arrested him. Diego had been alerted by his employers, who were concerned for Pinto's safety - as he was 95 per cent blind. He had been stopped the previous year for not having a licence, but the eagle-eyed police failed to register his visual impairment - an easy oversight however, since his car was totally unscathed. He was released without charge.

DIET OF CHAMPIONS

At 72 years old, French grandfather Flavio must be one of the world's oldest champions. And one of the more remarkable, in an age where sporting achievement is lauded in disciplines from running to beach volleyball to synchronized swimming. Monsieur Flavio may yet gain the recognition he truly deserves. And his triumph? He ate a 5in black pudding under ten minutes to beat off the competition in a sausage-eating contest in South-West France.

PLAYING BY THEIR OWN RULES

Guardian Crossword No 20,736

Set by Rufus

Across

- 1 Malevolence one can bear (5)
- 4 Grants a minor point (5)
- 9 A positive sign (4)
- 10 Calling for a military takeover (10)
- 11 The significance of graven images out East (5)
- 12 Great place for fresh air (5)
- 13 He stands, wishing to sit (5)
- 16 Music circle (4)
- 18 Lots of trousers (4)
- 17 It teaches reform in accordance with good taste (5)
- 21 Don't give up getting the unit back in shape (5)
- 22 Prophet is first-class, given a head start (5)
- 24 Tries to reach agreement, but gets into a muddle about one point (10)

Down

- 25 Similar to a family group (4)
- 26 Men answered her riddle (5)
- 27 Dash inside the chain-store (5)

Solution tomorrow

19 I adopt a Latin form of language (7)
20 American officer shows the flag (5)
23 Partly under water from waves caused by a passing vessel (5)

27 Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 328 328. Calls cost 35p per min, cheap rate, 40p per min at all other times. Service supplied by ATS

Online page 12

تکواندو الفجر

Use of the podstock generation

Nuc
ust
icr

de